



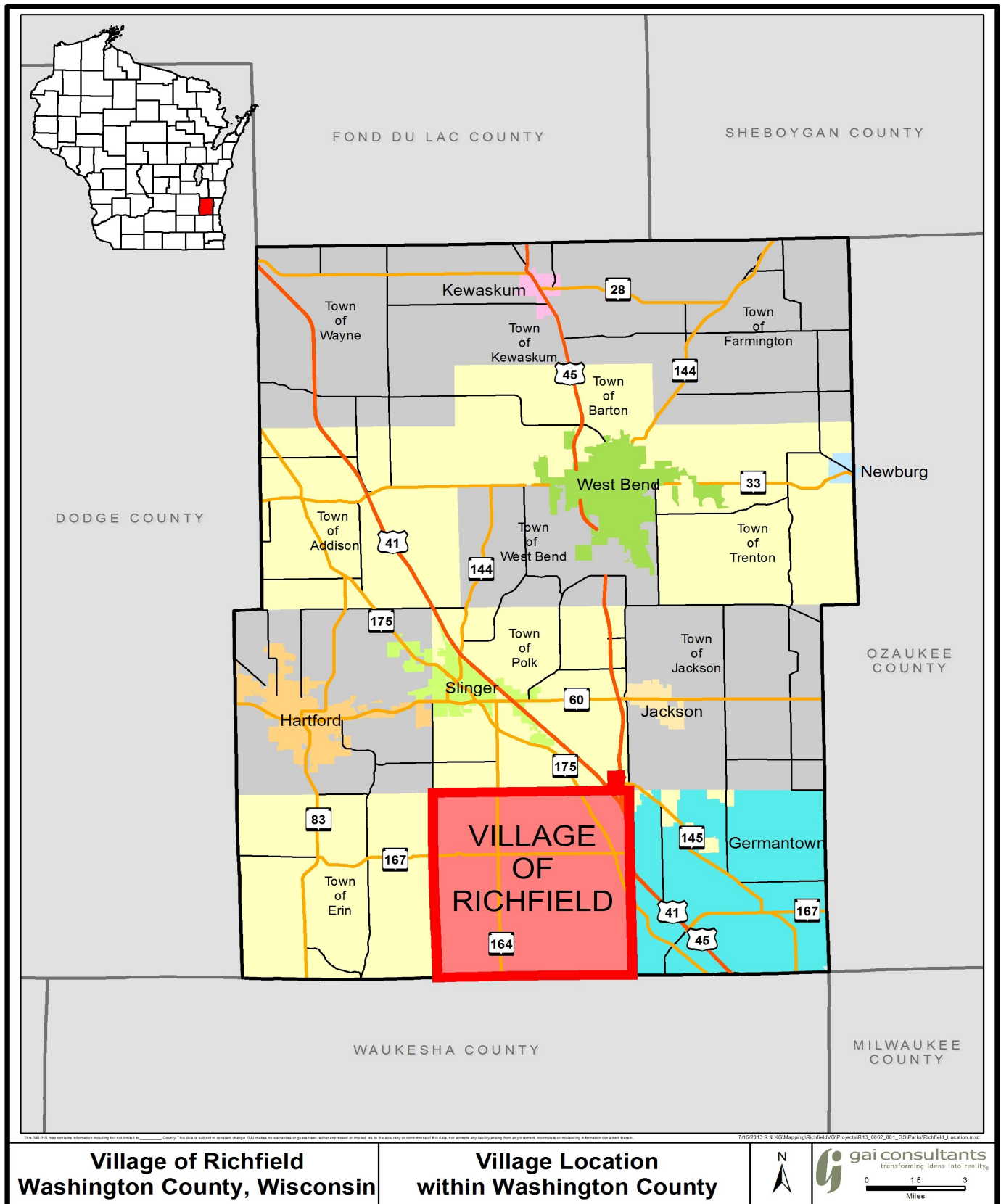
**Comprehensive Park,  
Outdoor Recreation,  
and  
Open Space Plan  
2013-2018**

**VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD**

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# Map 1, Geographical Location



# Village Organization



## Park Commission

Tom Wolff, Chairman, Paul Bernard, Virgil Dawson, Ken Meeks, Donald Filipiak, Larry Schmitt, and Heidi Woelfel

## Village Board

John Jeffords, Village President

Dan Neu, Trustee

Bill Collins, Trustee

Sandy Voss, Trustee

Rock Brandner, Trustee

## Village Staff

Joshua Schoemann, Administrator

Jim Healy, Assistant to the Administrator

Donna Jackson, Deputy Treasurer

Caroline Fochs, Deputy Clerk

Joel Jaster, Building Inspector

Greg Darga, Building Inspector

KateLynn Schmitt, Administrative Intern

Margaret Runnells, Office Assistant

## Public Works/Parks

Mike Gauthier, DPW Supervisor

Bob Muesch, Shop Foreman

Dave Janzer, Highway Department

Leon Schmitz, Highway Department

Annie Stuetngen, Parks Department

Brett Thicke, Parks Department

Ron Schlee, Recycling Center



# Introduction

*“We effectively plan and manage Village growth to successfully blend our rural heritage with our modern way of life. We protect our diverse natural resources and environment. We treasure our small-town feel while investing in thoughtful business development that enhances the vitality of our community. We actively preserve our open spaces, our dark evening skies, and beautiful parklands. We responsibly manage our precious water resources and thoughtfully consider development to protect them.”*

## **Village of Richfield, Strategic Plan (2012)**

The above stated paragraph was adopted as a part of the Village’s 2012 Strategic Plan. Our Strategic Plan aided the Village organization and our residents in determining our organizational philosophies, by helping to further define our Village’s “Vision”, “Mission”, and “Goals”. In drafting this language and in seeking the help of our residents, it became clear that a defining characteristic inside our thirty-six (36) square mile border is the intrinsic “character” our Village has. Over the last thirty (30) years since the genesis of our park planning efforts, the Park Commissions and (Town) Village Boards have done an exceptional job at maintaining the balance between what has been and what will be. In order to help further delineate the path for our Village organization over the next five (5) years, this update to the 2008 Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan will harken back to the 2004 standards of parkland levels of service (LOS) which were developed by utilizing standards which were in-part, established by the National Park and Recreation Association.

An important step in the park and open space planning process is to define an appropriate set of minimum service standards or LOS the community chooses to meet and maintain for the various parks, outdoor recreation facilities, and/or open space areas for the community. These standards enable a community to determine how well existing parks, recreation facilities and open space areas meet the needs of current residents as well as to help project future capital expenditures or land planning needs. While the 2008 Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan did not hold true to these adopted LOS standards from 2004, the Village’s Park Commission in June of 2013 decided that those standards outlined in 2004 were more appropriate than those outlined in 2008 and Staff was to revert to those standards in the preparation of this document.

As a part of this park planning process, the Village created both an online survey and distributed a physical survey to every property owner in Richfield. This “Park Satisfaction Survey” (attached in the appendices) was used in concert with other surveying done in 2012 as a part of our Strategic Planning efforts (attached in the appendices) as well as information gathered from meetings of our Park Commission. In July of 2013, the Village Park Commission held a special meeting and invited stakeholders from various organizations in the Village, among those were the Richfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association, Richfield Rockets and Richfield Lady Rockets, Richfield Soccer Club, and the Richfield Historical Society. While each organization utilizes our park system to varying degrees and for different types of uses, one characteristic they all have in common is that each one over the years has made significant improvements to our Village parks. These volunteer organizations are the lifeblood of our Village park system and without successful partnerships with these clubs, our park system would not be in the impressive shape they are in today due to their various generous donations.

# Introduction

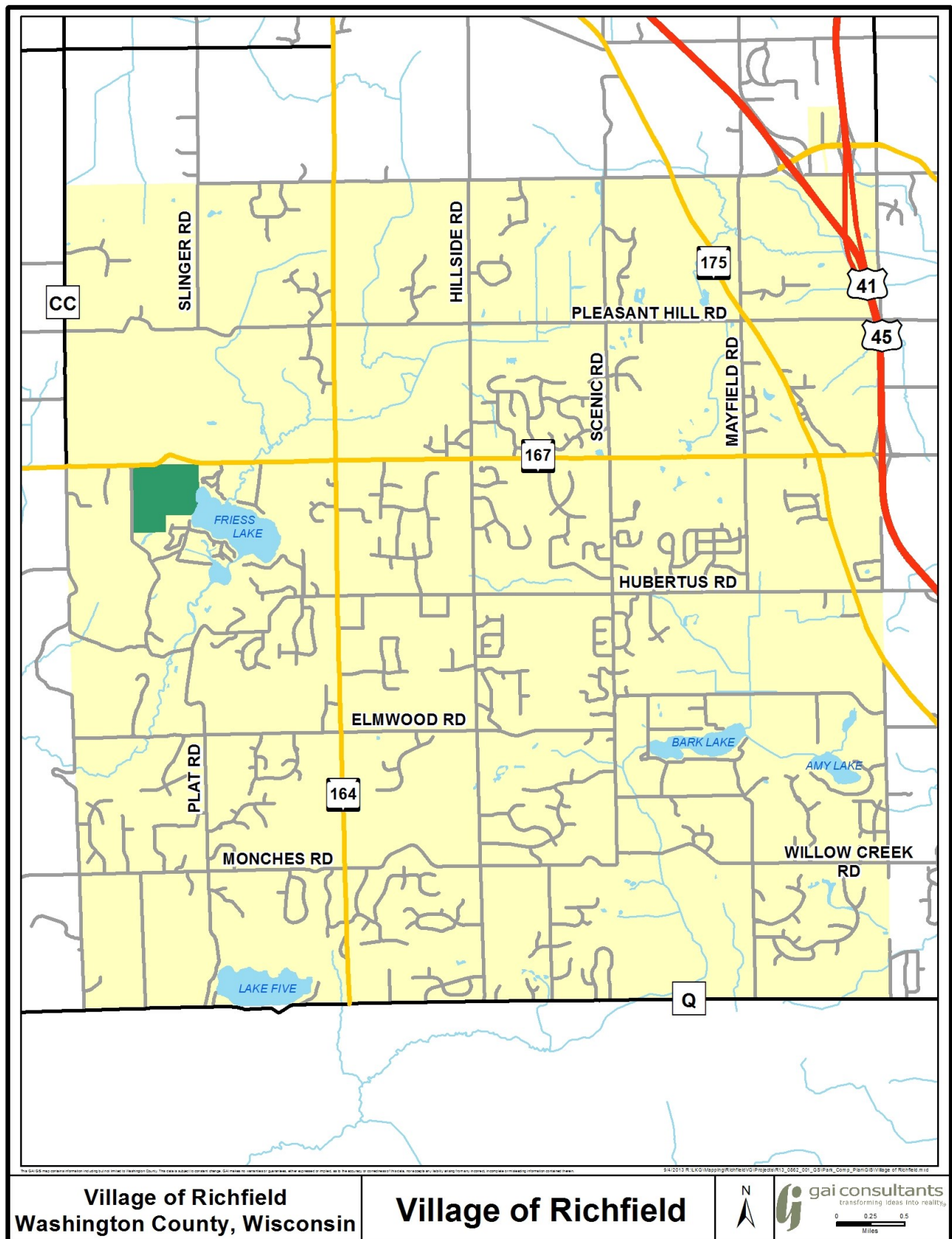
This update to the 2008 Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan, will be the fourth formalized planning document the Village has adopted. Due to the rapid growth which occurred in the Village over the last thirty (30) years, these plans have been instrumental to the development and maintenance of countless services and amenities within the Village. However, this growth has also created the need to periodically update and amend these documents as their content becomes outdated and better data is made available. Therefore, as with most planning documents, the purpose of this plan will be to build upon, and update various sections of the plan.

Consistent with the Park and Open Space Plan adopted by the Town of Richfield in 1980 and the Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan adopted by the Town in 2004 and 2008, the following plan will primarily serve as a guide to the Village of Richfield for the acquisition and improvement of existing and future parks, outdoor recreation facilities, and other open space areas for the upcoming five (5) year period of 2013-2018. A second significant function of this comprehensive plan will be to allow the Village of Richfield to maintain eligibility for a wide variety of State and Federal grant programs which are specifically targeted toward supporting park, recreation, and open space areas. Finally, this plan will help to reinforce the important functions that parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas provide for the Village of Richfield and its citizens.

The following is a passage from the Village 2004 Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan: *“The extent and pace of development within the community has created the need to develop and implement an overall plan to meet the demand for urban services and facilities while maintaining the rural character and quality of life of the community”*. This excerpt is a very telling example of how the mentality of our citizenry has not changed much over the course of the last near decade. As data from the survey will show, a majority of the Village residents, as well as our park’s core users, believe that not only does the park system serve their current needs, but the facilities and land should be adequate in the future as well. It is unquestionable that some point in the distant future we will become ‘deficient’ in our parkland to population ratio, but over the next decade we will evaluate the established goals and objectives contained herein to assist in our parkland development policies.

The Village of Richfield is located in the south central portion of Washington County, (Map 1) in the south-east region of Wisconsin. Richfield is located within commuting distance of the City of Milwaukee and the jobs and major city amenities it offers. In addition to its close proximity to Milwaukee, Richfield is located within a five (5) minute drive of the Villages of Germantown, Menomonee Falls, and Slinger and within a ten (10) minute drive of the Cities of Hartford and West Bend. The Village of Germantown, Town of Polk, and Town of Erin in Washington County lie on the eastern, northern and western boundaries of the Village of Richfield, respectively. The Town of Lisbon located in Waukesha County lies adjacent to and south of the Village of Richfield. The Village also has a number of transportation thoroughfares such as STH 164, STH 167, and STH 175 (Map 2). U.S. 41/45, which is located on the easterly border of the Village, are primary highways extending from Green Bay to our more urbanized Milwaukee neighbors.

# Map 2, Village of Richfield



## Previous Planning Efforts

Prior to 1980, park and outdoor recreation planning efforts in the Village of Richfield were relatively limited. Beginning with a preliminary effort in 1980, two comprehensive park and open space plans were developed and adopted by the Village. In addition to the Village's formal planning efforts, several other related plans have been created by Washington County and the State of Wisconsin.

### 1980-2000

Similar to the document presented here, the Town of Richfield's 1980 Park and Open Space Plan was prepared and adopted to guide future acquisitions and improvements to existing and future parks and outdoor recreation facilities. The plan was also used to help the Town become eligible for various State and Federal outdoor recreation grant programs.

Following the standards created by SEWRPC and Washington County, the 1980 plan primarily concluded that the two Town-owned parks at the time (Heritage Park and Herman Wolf/Fireman's Park) required expansion and the natural and prime agricultural areas within the town required preservation. According to the plan, regional and multi-community parks were adequate to meet the needs of Town residents.

The approval plan included four major elements:

- Physical enhancements to existing parks and recreation areas, e.g. restrooms, ball field backstops and tennis court lights, etc.
- Additional facilities at existing parks, e.g. new ball fields, tennis courts, play equipment, etc.
- Acquisition of additional land adjoining the two (2) existing town-owned parks and other "new" open space land for hiking and biking trails, nature study and other similar passive recreational activities in and/or adjoining the upland, lowland, and floodplain/watershed areas in the Town.
- Preservation of prime agricultural land primarily through restrictive zoning regulations.

Following the expiration of this plan in 1983, little other park, outdoor recreation or open space planning was conducted until 1994. In 1994 the Town Board established the Parks & Conservancy Sub-Committee to gain citizen input and make recommendations to the Town Board. The following is a summation of their recommendations:

- Acquire and develop sufficient park land to maintain a minimum standard of nine (9) acres of town-owned "community parkland" per 1,000 population.
- Encourage the development of "neighborhood parks" within future residential subdivisions.
- Acquire and develop three "community parks" to be located in southwest, southeast, and northern areas of the Town.
- Develop a program for the systemic acquisition and development of linear parks, public trails and other open space areas for the purposes of linking the environmental corridors in the Town.



# Previous Planning Efforts

## 2004

In 2004 the Town Board adopted the Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan. Similar to the Town's first comprehensive park plan in 1980, the document was designated to guide park and open space policy and allow the Town to become eligible for State and Federal grants. The plan developed two primary goals, one addressing parks and outdoor recreation and the other addressing open space conservation. Stemming from these goals was a series of supporting objectives and specific policies. In addition, the plan also lists several recommendations addressing general issues, park and recreation facilities, and open space areas.

Although written twenty-four (24) years after the 1980 Park and Open Space Plan, the 2004 Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan remained consistent with many of the priorities expressed in the earlier plan. Suggesting that the Town must provide increased park, recreation and open space areas, the 2004 plan states that 10.0 acres of Town-owned "community" type parkland should be available for every 1,000 residents, which is an increase from the 9.0 acres in 1980. In order to accomplish this, it was stated that Heritage and Herman Wolf/Fireman's Park should be improved and expanded. Additionally, it was recommended that three (3) new community parks should be established in underserved areas of the Village. To address the second goal of open space conservation, the plan recommended that available environmentally sensitive land be acquired by the Town and appropriate environmentally conscious zoning policies be implemented.

- Acquire land and develop adequate recreation facilities necessary to provide and maintain at least 10.0 acres of Town-owned "Community" type parkland per 1,000 population.
- Encourage and coordinate the development and use of other public neighborhood, regional, and special use parks and recreation facilities in the Town.
- Design park and outdoor recreation and open space area improvements to meet the requirements of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) when and wherever practical.

## 2008

In 2008 the Village completed its third and most recent comprehensive plan developed specifically for park, outdoor recreation and open space areas. Following the subsequent completion of the 2004 plan, the Village (then Town) acquired 92 contiguous acres of parkland which constitutes the Richfield Nature Park. In addition to those 92 acres, five (5) additional acres were added to the Richfield Historical Park. Given the methodology that was used in the 2008 plan, it was determined that their once anticipated 'deficit' of parkland was turned into a 'significant acreage surplus'. A part of that surplus was also due to the fact that Staff slightly modified service areas for neighborhood parks from 1/4-1/2 mile radius (2004) to 3/4 mile radius (2008). It also modified service areas for Community Parks from 1-2 miles (2004) to 2 1/2 miles (2008). According to the NPRA, there is no one set of LOS, because all communities vary geographically and by population. It is therefore up to the community to determine how their guidelines would best be adopted by the respective community.

## Previous Planning Efforts

- New projects should be developed with the assistance and input of appropriate stakeholders. These groups and individuals may include neighboring citizens, municipalities, interested community groups, or county officials.
- The Village of Richfield, school districts, and other public and private entities should explore joint use agreements to minimize facility and program duplication, increase monetary savings to the groups/individuals involved, and provide increased diversity of recreation opportunities.
- Plans and projects should be coordinated with other levels of government such as Washington County and the State of Wisconsin in order to provide opportunities that apply to the greatest number of people within the Village and its surrounding areas.
- The Village of Richfield's Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan should be continually updated in order to maintain constant eligibility for State and Federal grants and funding.
- Existing athletic groups such as the Richfield Youth Baseball & Softball Association and Richfield Soccer Club should be given sustained support to ensure continued operation of the popular baseball/softball and soccer leagues. If appropriate, expansion to other sports and age groups could be considered.
- Existing community groups such as the Richfield Historical Society should be given sustained support to ensure continued operation and proper development of the historical features and attractions located within the Richfield Historical Park.
- Future zoning changes continue to reflect the Village's historical commitment to the maintenance and addition of park and open space areas within the Village boundaries.

### Additional Park Plans

In addition to the three (3) comprehensive park plans discussed above, the parks and open space areas within the Village of Richfield have also been included in plans created by the State of Wisconsin and Washington County. Although the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides a broad overview and general goals for the State as a whole, it still provides basic objectives that are applicable to most communities. The plans developed by Washington County provide somewhat more specific and focused plans as they relate to the Village of Richfield.



# Demographics

### Table 1: Population Trends, 1980-2010

	Village of Richfield		Washington County		State of Wisconsin	
Year	Persons	% Change	Persons	% Change	Persons	% Change
1980	8,390	n/a	84,848	n/a	4,705,642	n/a
1990	8,993	7.2%	95,328	12.4%	4,891,769	4.0%
2000	10,373	15.3%	117,496	23.3%	5,363,715	9.6%
2010	11,339	9.3%	131,887	10.9%	5,686,986	6.0%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau						

### Table 2: Richfield Population by Age Group, 1990-2010

	1990		2000		2010		
Age	Amount	Percentage (%)	Amount	Percentage (%)	Age	Amount	Percentage (%)
Under 18	2,583	28.72%	2,759	26.6%	Under 18	2,704	23.84%
20-24	501	5.57%	381	3.67%	20-24	405	3.57%
25-34	1,298	14.43%	879	8.47%	25-34	675	5.95%
35-49	2,453	27.28%	4,090	39.43%	35-49	2,851	25.14%
50-64	1,319	14.67%	1,174	11.32%	50-64	3,002	26.47%
65 & Up	558	6.20%	841	8.11%	65 & Up	1,408	12.41%
Median Age	37.1		39.3		44.2		

### Table 3:Population Trends, 2007-2026

	Village of Richfield		Washington County		State of Wisconsin	
Year	Persons	Change (%)	Persons	Change (%)	Persons	Change (%)
2007	11,128	n/a	128,211*	n/a	5,601,640*	n/a
2015	11,334	1.9%	134,225	4.7%	5,931,386	5.9%
2020	11,615	2.5%	139,214	3.7%	6,110,878	3.0%
2026	11,996	3.3%	145,314	4.4%	6,274,867	2.7%
*2007 estimates						
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Wisconsin Department of Administration						

# Demographics

Like most municipalities around the country, the Village of Richfield experienced tremendous growth from the early 1990s to the early 2000s. The rate of population growth experienced in Richfield, 7.2% and 15.3%, respectively, were significantly higher than what occurred in the State of Wisconsin. While Washington County during that same period of time saw growth of almost one quarter of its population from the time period of 1990-2000, in 2010, Richfield and Washington County had fairly similar growth patterns.

When examining the data by age demographics, the primary age group in Richfield has continued to be the ‘Baby Boomer’ generation, ages 50-64, followed closely by ‘Generation Xs’ in the age range of 39-49. Congruent with the Village’s 2004 overall Village Comprehensive Plan, the Village has continued to see a downward decline in the number of children in the Village (0-17). This segment of the population will continue to be monitored, because their population will dictate the need for certain additional recreational facilities and parkland.

In addition to the downward decline of children (0-17), the aging population in Richfield in general is something we will continue to have to plan for. As a part of the Village’s Comprehensive Plan, that population’s percentage increase in the median age demographic was already something that was identified as an indicator of future services needs, both housing and recreational. The median age of our residents from 2000 to 2010, increased almost 13% from 39.3 to 44.2. As we continue to see the average median age continue to rise as we have over the last thirty (30) years, it is anticipated that the likelihood of the population of new children (0-17) living in Richfield will trend downward.

In recent decades, the Village’s population has been marked with changes in the age structure/median age of our residents. This trend can be attributed to the ‘Baby Boomer’ population’s steady growth and maturation, life expectancy increases, and residents leaving more urbanized areas for our rural setting (‘urban sprawl’). Understanding current conditions and trends in resident population helps the Village further establish the needs and wants of the community. The Village’s Park Commission, Village Board, and Park Staff have a common and unified goal, to ensure that our parks serve our community’s residents needs. By continuing to monitor population trends and reaching out to our Village’s youth sports organizations and residents with opportunities for active participation, the Village will be able to respond better to community needs, resolve conflicts among groups of different park users, and manage park assets more efficiently and effectively.

“The median age of the Town of Richfield resident in 2000 was 39.3. This average is higher than the Washington County median age (36.6) and the State of Wisconsin median age (36.0).”

**- 2004 Town of Richfield  
Comprehensive Plan**



# Land Use

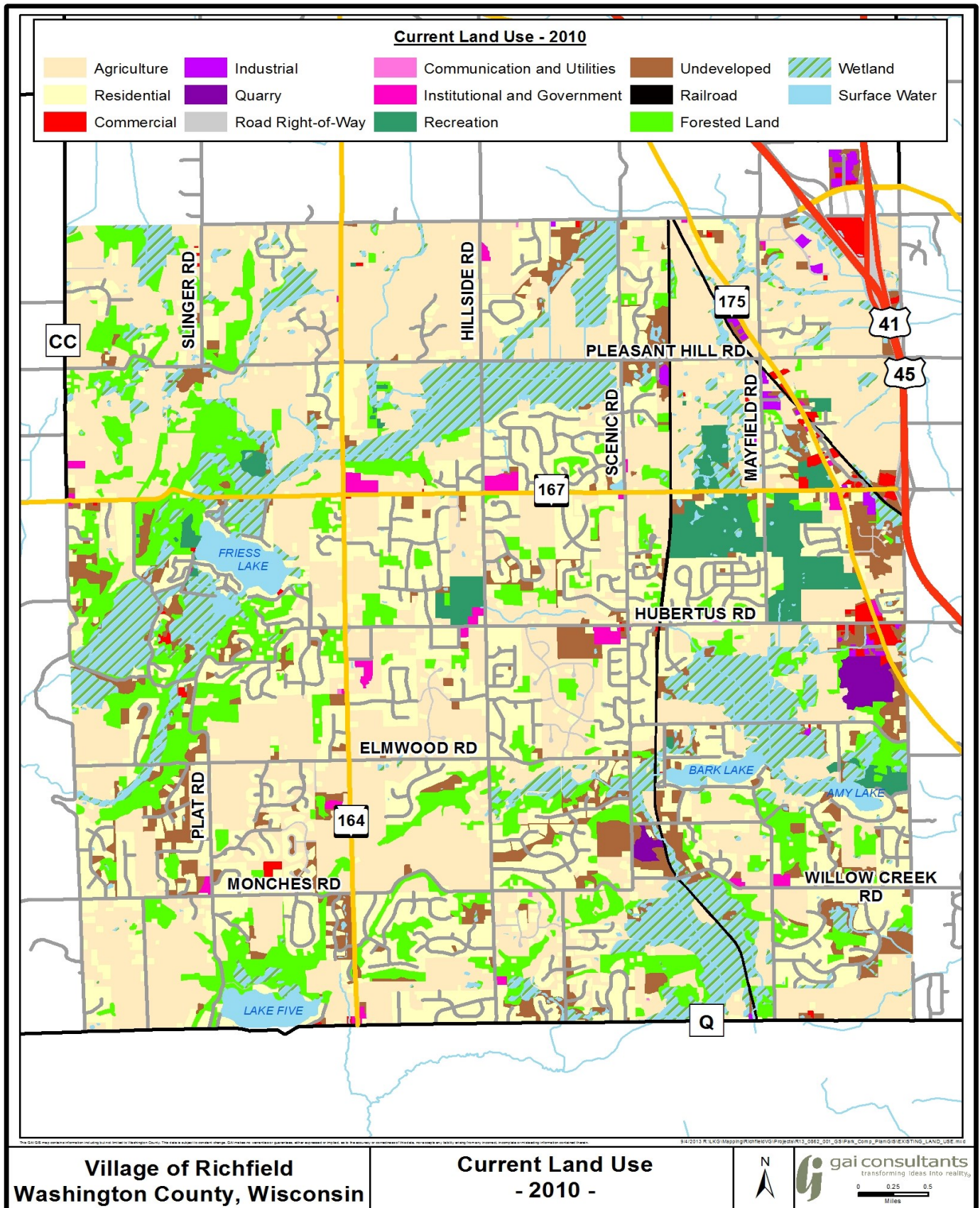
“Land use planning” is the term used for a branch of public policy encompassing various disciplines which seek to order and regulate land use in an efficient and ethical way, thus preventing land use conflicts. Municipalities and Richfield specifically, use land use planning to manage the development of acreage within our jurisdictions. The goal of land-use planning according to the American Planning Association (APA) is to “further the welfare of people and their communities by creating convenient, equitable, healthful, efficient, and attractive environments for present and future generations.” In doing so, our community can plan for the needs of the citizens while safeguarding its natural resources.

Land-use planning often leads to land-use regulations, also known as zoning. In the Village of Richfield our zoning regulations are found in Chapter 70 of the municipal code. Table 4 was created as a part of the Town of Richfield’s incorporation in 2008. In 2006 the largest categories of land use were Agricultural (6,335), Residential (6,554), Wetland (2,822), and Forested (2,375). However, it is important to note that even in 2008, the environmental corridors shown on the Village Land Use Map were even then, quite outdated. The information used to populate those land use figures were more than likely based on the 1975 SEWRPC version of these corridors. In 2010 SEWRPC completed their updated land use assessment which is summarized on Map 3.

**Table 4: Land Uses, 2004**

Land Use Type	Acres	Percentages
Agriculture	6,355	27.3%
Commercial	85	.36%
Forested	2,375	10.2%
Institutional and Governmental	95	.41%
Industrial	195	.84%
Outdoor Recreation	502	2.16%
Residential	6,554	28.16%
Residential under Development	1,008	4.33%
Transportation	1,547	6.64%
Communication and Utilities	8	.03%
Surface Water	415	1.78%
Wetland	2,822	12.14%
Unused Lands	1,316	5.65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,277</b>	<b>100</b>
Source: 2006 Village of Richfield Incorporation Submittal		

# Map 3, SEWRPC Land Uses, 2010



# Land Use

**Table 5: Existing Land Uses, 2010**

Land Use Type	Acres	Percentages
Agriculture	8,124	34.83%
Commercial	61	0.26%
Communication and Utilities	3	0.01%
Government and Institutional	102	0.44%
Industrial	146	0.63%
Open Lands	6,957	29.83%
Recreational	556	2.43%
Residential	5,567	23.87%
Transportation– Motor Vehicle	1,528	6.56%
Transportation– Off-street Parking	146	0.63%
Transportation– Rail	105	0.43%
Unused Lands	18	0.08%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,313</b>	<b>100</b>
Source: SEWRPC Regional Land Use Report (2010)		

The 2010 Land Uses in Table 5 are based on the most recent land use data provided by SEWRPC and will soon become a part of the Village's 2013 Comprehensive Plan Update which will follow the adoption of this document. As mentioned previously, the Village has seen an increase in the amount of land acquired since 2006. As you can see in Table 5 and Map 3, which shows the 2010 Existing Land Uses, similar patterns of distribution exist today as they did seven (7) years ago, with slight modifications to the categories listed. The largest groupings of the Village's land uses in 2010, as they were in 2006, are still Agricultural (8,124ac.) and Residential (5,567ac.).

Like an orchestra, land use planning should add up to more than simply the sum of its individual parts. The system of land use should be composed of different types of uses which complement each other and meet the needs of the full range of community interests. Future open space uses, particularly recreation-oriented open space areas, will need to be supported with adequate access and relative proximity to area schools and neighborhoods. The need for recreational land use is universal. Parks, recreational activities and open spaces offer places to socialize, exercise, allow residents of all ages to participate in competitive sports, and experience the Village's abundant natural environment in our open space and naturally maintained areas. The Village's recreational opportunities provide residents with the ability to exercise, learn, and explore nature's wonders. Also, unlike some of our municipal counterparts, the sites that the Village has in our Historical Park also contribute to our sense of community identity and further develop our resident's connection to both the past and present.



# Natural Characteristics

The Village's undulating and rolling landscape can be described best as a varied and natural terrain. Like much of Wisconsin, our topography is due to the glacier activity which moved across Washington County during the last ice age. This natural occurrence has created countless kettles, kames, and eskers to form the landscape of Richfield as we know it today and most of Washington County. Therefore, the "kettle moraine" description of our landscape in Richfield and most of Washington County is quite apt. This "kettle moraine" landscape creates elevations within the Village that can range from a low of 960 feet above sea level to a high of 1,185 feet above sea level. This variation has resulted in approximately 12.7 percent of village area being located on slopes of 12 percent or greater. Please see Map 4 for the topographical contours of the Village.

Due to the steep slopes, lowlands, and lakes associated with the kettle moraine formations of the region, significant portions of Village land are not conducive to development. As a result, many of these areas remain natural forests, marshes, and swamps. These areas have been designated as "environmental corridors" and contain much of the surface water, wetlands, woodlands, floodplains, aquifer recharge and critical wildlife areas found in the Village. The location of these areas within the Village, as well as all other current land uses, are illustrated in the Village of Richfield Land Use (Map 3) and official Zoning Map (Map 6). To maximize the benefit of different land uses, it will be important in the Village's 2013 Comprehensive Plan Update to consider the different effects land uses will have on neighboring properties and how future development of single-family residential homes may, at some point, necessitate the future need to acquire additional parkland. This will be accomplished in the Village's review of the ten (10) and twenty (20) year Future Land Use Maps.

Four (4) major watersheds in southeast Wisconsin are located within Richfield. These areas consist of the Rock River watershed (80 percent); the Milwaukee River watershed (13 percent); the Menomonee River watershed (5 percent); and the Fox River watershed (2 percent). The headwaters of three southeastern Wisconsin stream systems, the Fox River, the Oconomowoc River, and the Bark River, are located within the Village of Richfield as well. In addition to these navigable waterways, three (3) major lake bodies are also located within the Village of Richfield. Friess Lake and Lake Five are over 100 acres in size (119 acres and 102 acres, respectively) and Bark Lake (65 acres). Working in concert with those ecosystems are the two smaller lakes- Little Friess Lake, and Amy Belle Lake.

Scattered throughout the southern and central portions of the Village, the lakes are popular with residents as well as tourists for boating, fishing, and other recreational activities. Friess Lake, the largest of our water bodies has a public boat launch called the 'Wild Marsh Landing'. This landing is used both during Wisconsin's boating season and during the winter months for public access to ice fish. At the time this document is being drafted, another public boat launch is scheduled for construction and completion in 2014 on Bark Lake. Please refer to Map 5 for information on navigable waterways and the Village's lake system.



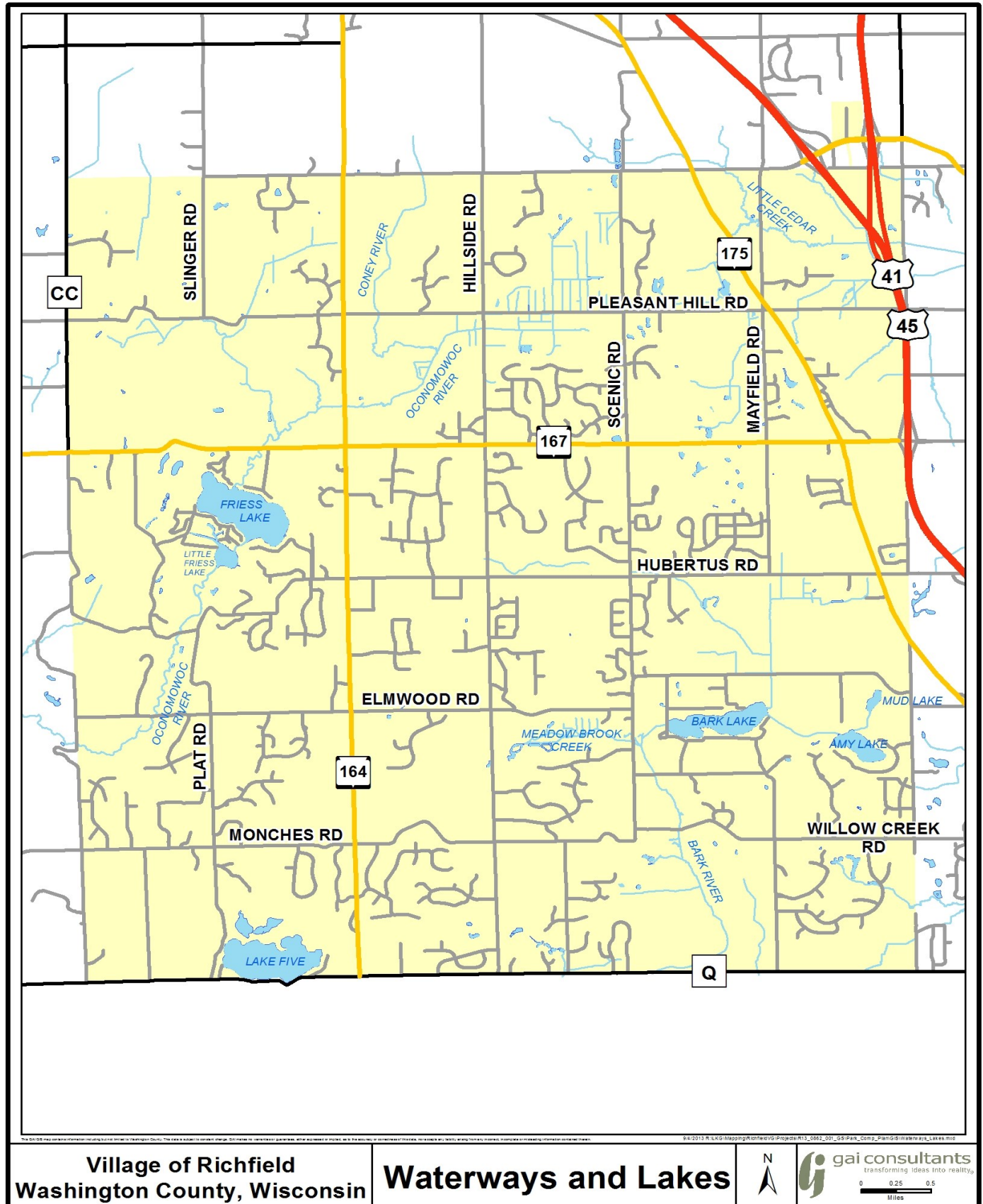


# Map 4, Topographical Contours

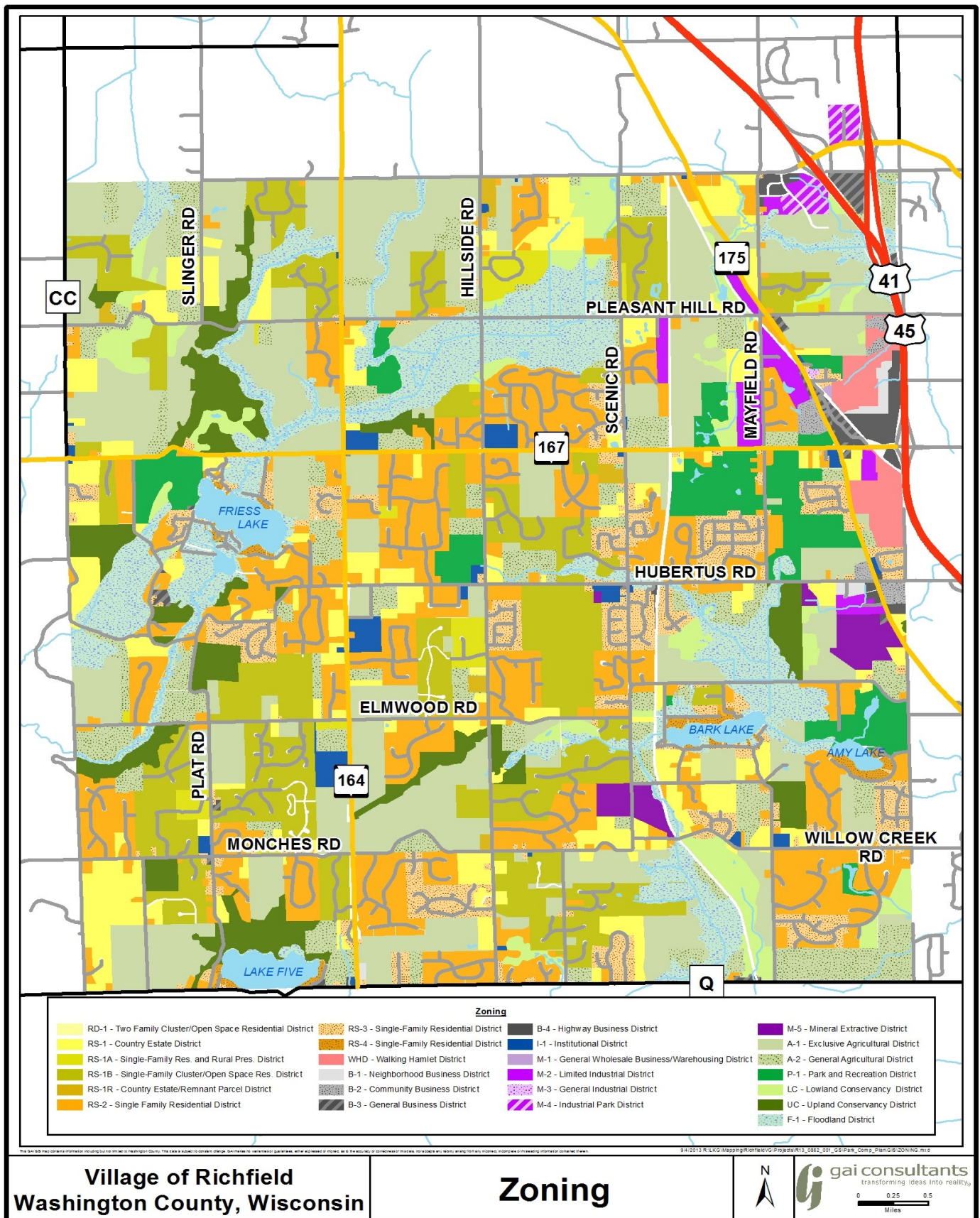




# Map 5, Navigable Waterways and Lake System



# Map 6, Village Zoning Map





# Level of Service (LOS) Standards, NRPA

In the early 1900s the Playground Association of America developed a plan for politicians in Washington D.C. to provide for playgrounds, recreation centers, and athletic fields. Every school district was to have at least one (1) acre of land for each 2,000 children. This recommendation of the Playground Association becomes one of the first recorded recreational spatial standards.

George Butler of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) established recommended space standards for playgrounds in neighborhoods of different populations. Butler reluctantly prepared a standard of ten (10) acres of park and open space per 1,000 population within each city. His reluctance to suggest a definitive standard arose because he saw that this standard, or any other, was likely to be used indiscriminately regardless of location. Ironically, in 2004 one of the goals developed by the Town was to develop ten (10) acres of 'Community Parkland' per 1,000 residents.

Level of Service (LOS) standards, as expressed in service areas, are essentially the maximum service areas surrounding recreation sites and facilities. It is intended to determine whether the existing recreation sites and facilities are spatially distributed in a manner convenient to the resident population and intended to determine whether the overall number of recreation site areas and facilities in a given neighborhood area are sufficient to satisfy the existing and proposed recreation demands of the resident population. Using these standards, it may be determined that per capita standards for recreation sites and facilities may be met. However, a need may still exist for additional sites and facilities because of the relative inaccessibility of the existing recreation areas to some of the resident population. In 1994, the established subcommittee identified the southwest, southeast, and north portion of the Village as likely places for newly developed parkland.

An important step in the park and open space planning process is to define a set of minimum LOS standards the community chooses to meet and maintain for the various parks, outdoor recreation facilities and open space areas to be provided in the community. These standards enable a community to determine how well existing parks, recreation facilities and open space areas meet the current and future needs of Richfield residents. At the June 12, 2013 Park Commission meeting it was requested by the members of the Park Commission that we return to the standards laid out in our 2004 plan which were based on various NRPA guidelines. Although there is no official rubric for developing a proportional parkland to resident ratio, Staff is confident the 2004 standards are within the range of what would be considered a 'best practice' in park management. The following is a breakdown of the categories and descriptions of parks the Village has and the subsequent NRPA standards that have been established.

## Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park is usually designed to serve a residential neighborhood or subdivision. Neighborhood parks typically include playground equipment, unmarked play areas and picnic facilities. Larger neighborhood parks may include basic baseball/softball fields, courts (tennis, volleyball, basketball, etc.), picnic areas, or restroom facilities. These parks should be within a comfortable walking distance of intended users.

**Typical Size:** 1 to 5 acres

**Per Capital Standard:** 1 to 2 acres per 1,000 residents

**Accessibility Standard:** 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius



# Level of Service (LOS) Standards, NRPA

## Community Parks

Community Parks are intended to serve passive and active recreational needs of several neighborhoods or subdivisions. These parks include all of the improvements found in neighborhood parks as well as other possible features such as lighted athletic fields, courts designed for competitive athletics, swimming pools, walking trails, restrooms, picnic shelters or pavilions. They may also contain areas of environmental significance that are classified as conservation lands. These parks are usually located within a short drive or walk of the intended users.

**Typical Size:** 5 to 40+ acres

**Per Capita Standard:** 5 to 10 acres per 1,000 residents

**Accessibility Standard:** 1 to 2 mile radius

## Regional Parks

Regional Parks are intended to serve multiple communities over a wide geographic region. These parks encompass large areas and typically include surface water and/or environmentally significant areas. They may also offer boating, swimming, picnicking, fishing, camping, extended trails, or nature centers. The development of new regional parks is beyond the scope of this document and is typically initiated by higher levels of government.

**Typical Size:** 100+ acres

**Per Capita Standard:** 5 to 10 acres per 1,000 residents

**Accessibility Standard:** One hour driving time

## Special Use Parks

Special Use Parks are publicly or privately owned recreational and open space areas that are designed to serve a specific purpose. Special use parks may include a public plaza or memorial, golf course, swimming pool, nature center, marina, zoo, downhill ski area or other distinct recreational use. Special use parks also include unique open space areas in otherwise developed commercial or industrial districts.

**Typical Size:** Variable

**Per Capita Standard:** Variable

**Accessibility Standard:** Variable

## Conservancy Parks

Conservancy parks are usually maintained for the protection of natural and/or cultural resources, such as wetlands, critical habitats for rare, threatened or endangered animal or plant species, historical sites, or areas for geological or glacial significance. Passive park features such as trails and nature centers are found in these areas. Size, per capita standards, and accessibility standards are variable for each of these categories.

# Level of Service (LOS) Standards, NRPA

**Table 6: Current Per Capita Park Needs**

Park Type	Existing Acreage	Acres/1000 Persons	Acres NRPA Recommends	Surplus or (Deficit) Acreage
Neighborhood	69.3	1 to 2	11.3 to 22.6	58 to 46.7
Community	172.2	5 to 10	55.3 to 110.6	116.9 to 61.6
Regional	140	n/a	n/a	n/a
Special use	33	n/a	n/a	n/a
Notes: 2010 Population = 11,339				

Table 6 illustrates how existing Richfield park sites, public school district park sites, and private school park sites, serve current population needs for park acreage. Based on the adopted standards established from the NRPA guidelines, the Village of Richfield residents are well-served by the current park acreage within the Village. In 2004, the Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan indicated that the Town was significantly lacking community acreage (26.8 acres deficient). However, with the addition of the Richfield Nature Park and a revised community park acreage standard, the Village currently has a significant surplus of community park acreage.

**Table 7: Future Per Capita Park Needs**

Park Type	Existing Acreage	Acres/1000 Persons	Minimum Acres Required 2025	Surplus or (Deficit) Acreage
Neighborhood	69.3	1 to 2	12 to 24	57.3 to 45.3
Community	172.2	5 to 10	60 to 120	112.2 to 52.2
Regional	140	n/a	n/a	n/a
Special Use	33	n/a	n/a	n/a
Notes: 2026 Population Estimate, 11,996 (Wisconsin Department of Administration)				

Although the assessment of current needs is important, the future needs of the Village and its residents should also be considered. Using Wisconsin Department of Administration estimates, the Village of Richfield is expected to have a population of 11,996 in 2025. However, for ease and convenience, we rounded the figure to 12,000 residents. When this population level is considered (pop. 12,000) with current resources, the park and open space areas within the Village continue to remain above the recommended minimum requirements (Table 7). Neighborhood park acreage retains a 45.3 to 57.3 acre surplus and community park acreage retains 112.2 to 52.2 acre surplus. It appears, based on these estimates, Richfield Village residents will continue to have exceptional park land use options well into the future.

# Level of Service (LOS) Standards, NRPA

**Table 8: Village and County-owned Parks**

Site	Name/ Description	Acres	Park/Site Type	Ownership	Features/Facilities
1	Glacier Hills Park	140.0	Regional	Washington County	Hiking trails, cross county skiing, nature center, volley/basketball, playground equipment, sledding hill
2	Historical Park	33.0	Special Use	Village of Richfield	Historic buildings, walking trails, picnic areas
3	Heritage Park	66.5	Community	Village of Richfield	Baseball fields, picnic tables, shelter areas, playground equipment, soccer fields, volleyball courts, walking trails
4	Fireman's Park	13.7	Community	Village of Richfield	Baseball fields, basketball court, picnic tables, shelters, playground equipment, volleyball court
5	Nature Park	92.0	Community	Village of Richfield	Nature trails, observation deck, horse riding trails, bird watching, shelter
6	Bark Lake Park	5.0	Neighborhood	Village of Richfield	Playground equipment, picnic tables, shelter area

**Table 9: Public and Private School-Owned Playground**

Site	Name/Description	Acres	Park/Site Type	Ownership	Features/Facilities
7	Amy Belle School	8.5	Neighborhood	School District	Playground equipment, ball field, basketball courts
8	Richfield School	8.8	Neighborhood	School District	Playground equipment, ball fields, basketball courts
9	Friess Lake School	27.0	Neighborhood	School District	Playground equipment, ball fields, basketball courts
10	Friess Lake School	40.0	Conservancy	School District	Wooded, undeveloped
11	Plat School	5.0	Neighborhood	School District	Playground equipment, ball fields, basketball courts
12	St. Augustine School	5.0	Neighborhood	Private	Playground equipment, ball fields, basketball courts
13	St. Gabriel School	10.0	Neighborhood	Private	Playground equipment, ball fields, basketball courts

# Level of Service (LOS) Standards, NRPA

**Table 10: Private Facilities and Outdoor Recreation Areas**

Site	Name/Description	Acres	Park/Site Type	Ownership	Features/Facilities
14	Arrowhead Springs Golf Club	70.0	Special Use	Private	9 Hole Professional Golf Course
15	Kettle Hills Golf Club	256.0	Special Use	Private	45 Hole Professional Golf Course
16	YMCA/Camp Minikani	124.0	Special Use	Private	Camping; Swimming; Education; Horse Riding; Stable; Boating; Lake Access
17	Logger's Park	16.0	Special Use	Private	Mini-Golf; Baseball/Softball Fields; Volleyball Courts; Shelter; Batting Cages
18	Pioneer Bowl	12.0	Special Use	Private	Baseball/Softball Fields; Volleyball Courts
19	Richfield Sportsmen's Club	162.0	Special Use	Private	Hunting
20	Daniel Boone Conservation League	150.0	Special Use	Private	Trap; Skeet; Hunting; Archery; Clubhouse; Camping
21	Wally & Bea's	1.0	Special Use	Private	Lake Access; Swimming Beach

## Village and County-Owned Public Parks

A primary concern, for the purposes of comparison with NRPA standards, is the acreage and amenities associated with government-owned public parks, especially those owned by the Village of Richfield. Table 8 provides a list of all government-owned parks within the Village of Richfield, the total acreage of each park, its category, owner, and related amenities. The number preceding each of these parks corresponds with the location shown on Map 7.

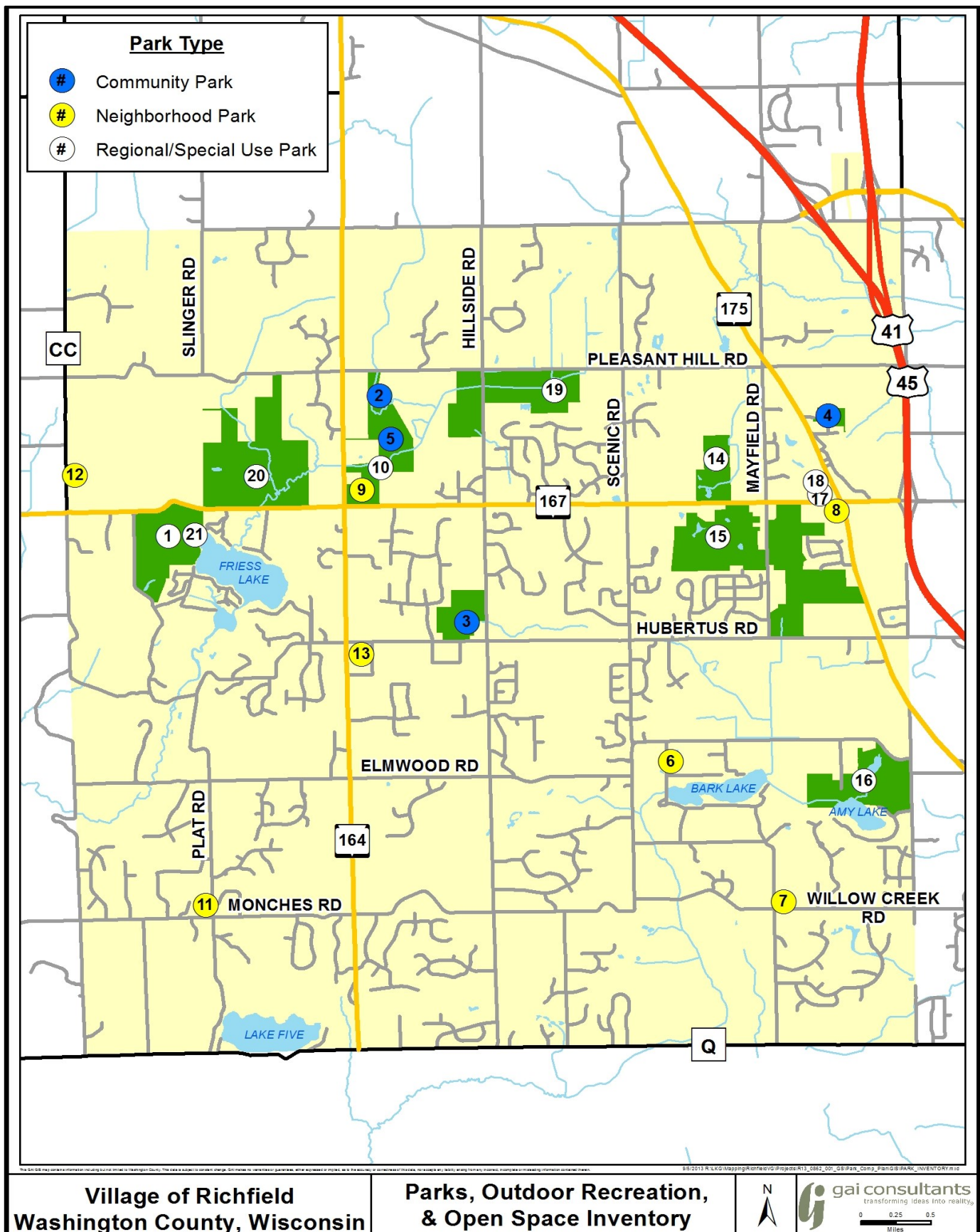
Of the parks listed in Table 8, one (1) is categorized as a Regional park and is owned by Washington County. Three (3) of the listed parks are Community Parks owned by the Village of Richfield, one (1) is a Special Use Park owned by the Village of Richfield, and one (1) is a Neighborhood Park owned by the Village of Richfield. The total acreage of all government-owned parks within the Village of Richfield is 350.2 acres. These parks represent a wide variety of active and possible activities available for users. These amenities range from trails, observation areas, shelters, and historic buildings to baseball/soccer fields and playground equipment.

## Public and Private School Owned Playgrounds

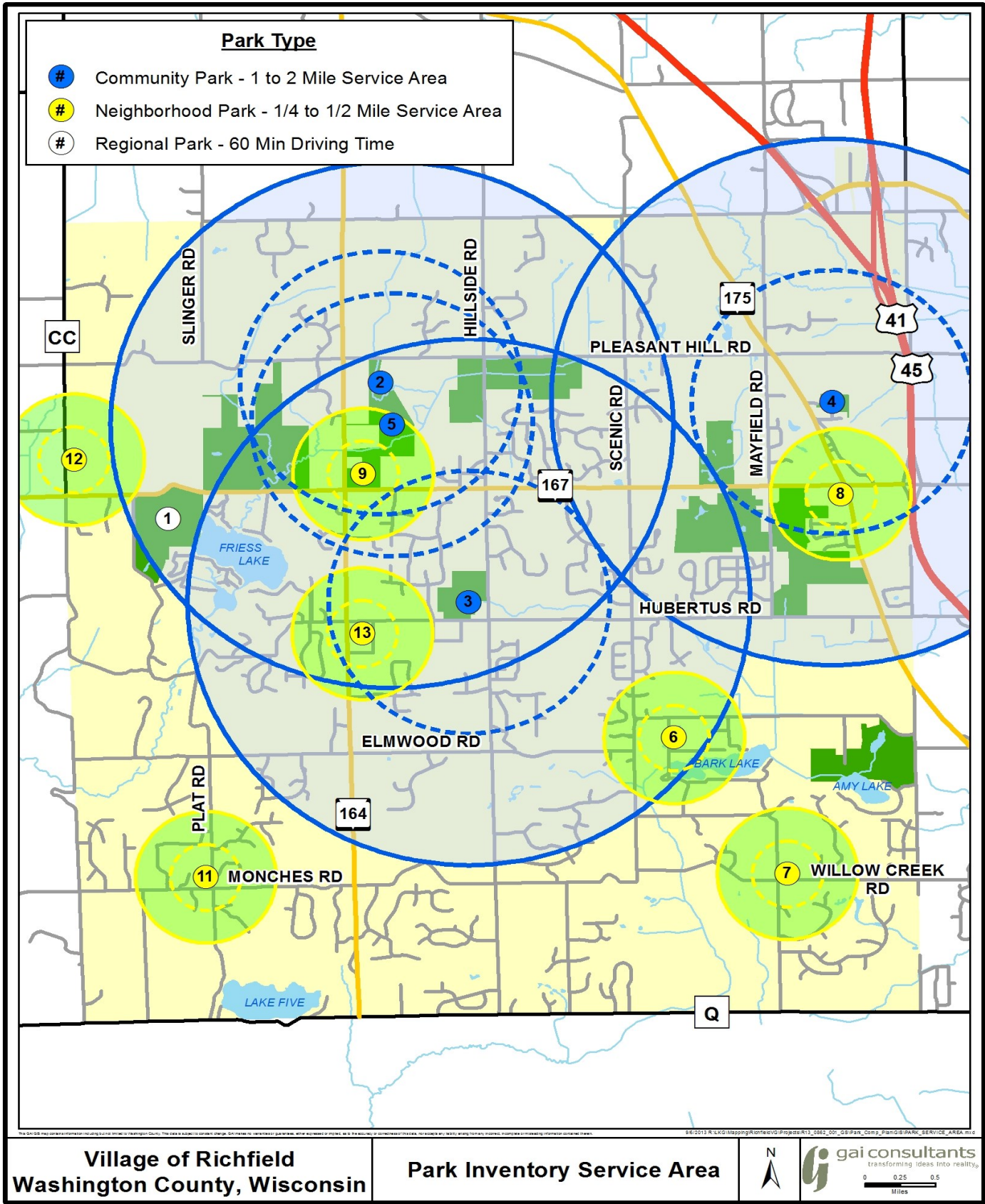
The Village of Richfield also has numerous schools within its boundaries. These schools own and maintain a variety of baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, and playground equipment. Although these areas are not owned by the Village, the amenities and activities associated with the areas serve a similar purpose to Village-owned neighborhood parks. Table 9 lists these park areas and their related information. With the exception of the 40 acres of conservancy land owned by Friess Lake School District, the remaining areas will be considered Neighborhood Parks and have been figured into the Village's land use assessment on Tables 6 and 7. Similar to the Village-owned parks, the location of these areas are also shown on Map 7.



## Map 7, Public and Private Parks



# Map 8, Public Park Facilities



# Survey Distribution and Analysis

Across the country, both public and private entities utilize feedback data in future assessment and decision making. This type of data-based decision making is an essential element of continuous quality improvement and helps municipalities and other organizations to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of various programs or services offered to taxpayers. Numerous methods exist for collecting data. Focus groups, personal interviews, surveys, and in-depth reviews of internal records are some methods to gather data. While the Village undertook numerous methods for data collection, the focus of this portion will be specifically our survey and data analysis.

In preparing to draft the 2013-2018 Comprehensive Park Plan, Staff solicited the input of the Park Commission in order to determine the best course of action for receiving feedback and insight from major stakeholders in our park system and the average resident. At the June 2013 meeting of the Park Commission, Staff was directed to create a 'Park Satisfaction Survey' based on the types of information the Park Commission wanted to know the answers to. But what is a survey? A survey is a research method for collecting information from a selected group of people using standardized questionnaires or interviews. In this instance, it was the Park Commission's determination that a formal survey be utilized in our methodology for gathering information. While many people think of a questionnaire as the survey, the questionnaire is just one part of the survey process. Surveys also require selecting populations for inclusion, pre-testing questions internally to ensure neutrality, determining delivery methods, ensuring validity, and analyzing results. In continuous quality improvements for municipalities, surveys help to identify taxpayer expectations, measure satisfaction levels, and determine specific areas for improvement.

## **How was the survey used?**

The purpose of our survey drives the collection method, the persons to be included in the survey process, the types of questions asked, and many other factors. The goal of our survey was to collect objective, unbiased information from a representative group of stakeholders consisting of parents of youth sports participants, members of the Richfield Historical Society, and the casual park-goer. It is the contention of Staff that 'best practices' in survey distribution were followed by attempting to create neutrally worded answers and uniform responses.

## **Who should be surveyed?**

One way to increase validity of survey results is to ensure that participants in the survey process are the stakeholders who are affected by or involved in the processes under review in the survey. These persons will be the ones most knowledgeable about the outcomes and impacts of the process and have the most relevant input for improvement. At the direction of Park Commission Chairman Tom Wolff, Staff personally invited the Presidents and the Richfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association, the Richfield Rockets, Richfield Lady Rockets, Richfield Soccer Club, and Richfield Historical Society for an informal interviewing process discussed later in the study. These five (5) organizations are intensive users of the Village park system.



# Survey Distribution and Analysis

## **How many should be surveyed?**

Some surveys include all persons within a population, while others sample just a subset of these individuals. It was determined that while we wanted to focus on the leaders of our various youth sports organizations and the Richfield Historical Society, that we had the correct timing to send everyone in the Village a targeted survey as a part of our bi-monthly newsletter. As a part of the interview process for these various organizations, representatives of each group also agreed to send the online survey out to their members in the hopes that those closest to the park system would be more willing to take it.

While the survey itself is attached in the Appendix along with the graphical results, it is worth briefly discussing the statistical significance of the survey results we received. Overall we received 343 responses from our survey, both online and hardcopy. However, the majority of the responses we received were online. Staff's goal in creating this survey was to be able to establish a confidence level of 95% or better, meaning, that we would be able to say with 95% accuracy (or better) that the responses received were representative of the whole community. In order to receive a 95% confidence level, the sample size needed to be statistically significant was 338 responses. Additionally, the Village utilized a confidence interval (also called a margin of error) of " $\pm 5.25$ ". For example, if you use a confidence interval of " $\pm 5.25$ " and 64% of your sample picks an answer you can be "Sure" that if you had asked that same question to the entire population, between 58.75% ( $-5.25$ ) and 69.25% ( $+5.25$ ) would have picked that same answer.

As mentioned previously, the Village received between 339-343 responses. It is worth noting that these surveys were available online. The website we utilized, [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com), does not monitor the number of times an individual takes a survey. While it is presumed each person took the survey one time and one time only, Staff has no way of knowing that to be a definitive fact. Also, the website host allows users to skip questions they do not want to answer, which is why there are a range of the total number of answers. Additionally, as the survey results were tabulated, further analysis was conducted as to the answers received and the quality of the questions. In this regard, Staff has chosen to eliminate two questions from the survey results. The questions were eliminated based on input received from residents about verbiage and the type of questions we asked. Staff has outlined a few of the more noteworthy results below:

- **35% of respondents are between the ages of 40-49, the largest response age category.**
- **71% of respondents believed the Village has 'just about the right amount' of parkland.**
- **62% of respondents travel between 1-3 miles to get to a Village and/or County park.**
  - ◆ **109 respondents travel 1-2 miles, 105 respondents travel 2-3 miles.**
- **57% of respondents would rate the Village's park system as either 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.**
- **39% of respondents would rate our park system "About the Same" as surrounding municipalities.**
- **32% of respondents utilize the parks "Several Times per Week"; whereas the next highest group of users at 25% only utilize the parks "Once in a While".**



# July 10, 2013 Park Commission Meeting

As a part of the public involvement process for updating this plan, the Village reached out to three (3) of our major stakeholders and high frequency users of the Village park system: Richfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association (RYBSA), Richfield Soccer Club (RSC) and the Richfield Historical Society (RHS). The Village has had long-standing and positive relationships with each of these organizations, so it was important for us to understand how our current facilities are meeting their needs and what sort of planning efforts their organizations are doing and/or expecting of the Village over the next five (5) years. Generally speaking, a consistent message that we heard from these groups during this meeting was that 1) our facilities meet their needs, 2) volunteerism and attracting new members has proven to be a challenge, and 3) that each organization has plans to be a willing partner with the Village's efforts to further develop our existing parkland.

## Present at the meeting:

Tim Stortz, President of RYBSA

Bill Theis, President of Rockets

Mike Bagin, President of RSC

Dan Stingl, Vice-President of RSC

Herb Lofy, Historic Sites Committee Chair of RHS

	RYBSA	RSC	RHS
<b>Does your organization have plans for physical improvements to Village park lands?</b>	Pitching warm-up areas and batting cages so children come into games ready to play. Lights on the fields at Heritage Park would be nice.	Upper field at Heritage Park needs to have its drainage looked at as well as potential grading issues. Additional parking, light, seating would be a welcome change.	In the Nature Park where the Threshere takes place it would be nice to have that trail improved for pedestrian safety. The bridge over the waterway in the Nature Park also needs to be improved.
<b>Do our current facilities meet your organizations needs?</b>	Yes. RYBSA is capable of hosting 400 kids without having any difficulties.	Yes. RSC should be good for several years playing at Heritage Park. The 10 fields currently operating meet the needs of our league and tournament play.	Yes. However, parking has become an issue at some of our larger events.
<b>As your organization continues to grow, what challenges do you foresee?</b>	Growth in the scope of what RYBSA offers parents and players is our largest challenge (ie: State league play, tournaments). Communication between the Village and new RYBSA leadership will be critical.	Volunteerism is shrinking amongst our group of parents. Additional parking would help with KMSL Tournament and allow us to host other similar types of tournaments to generate revenue for the Club.	Raising additional funds for the capital campaign for making the Messer/Mayer Mill fully operational. Reaching out to our membership to encourage them to be more active in helping set up events.
<b>Over the last 5-10 years, how have the participation levels in your organization been?</b>	Approximately 400-425 kids over the last 5 years.	Approximately 200-275 over the last 5 years.	Approximately 300 people over the last 5 year.
<b>How do you envision the Village's partnership with your organization over the next 5 years?</b>	Positive and mutually beneficial.	Maintain the status quo. Working with the Parks Staff has ensured well-maintained fields.	We are both active partners in the development of the Richfield Historical Park. Our hope is that the Village sees the value in supporting the Historical Society financially to help allowing us to continue to do good work.

# Goals and Objectives - Land Acquisition

The previous sections have provided a context, inventory, and analysis of the existing park and open space areas within the Village of Richfield. This section will develop several goals, objectives, and policies which will help guide the future decision making process related to the acquisition and development of parks and open space in the Village. The recommendations in this section will be divided into three main categories, land acquisition, park development, and open space conservation. Each category will consist of a broad primary goal followed by increasingly specific objectives and goals.

## **LAND ACQUISITION**

Since the approved of the last park and open space plan in 2008, the Village has not acquired any new park acreage. The last significant park acreage acquisition was beginning in the fall of 2004 and extending through 2006 when the Village gained a total of 92 contiguous acres which currently constitutes the Richfield Nature Park. In addition, five (5) acres were also added to the Richfield Historical Park. With these additions, the Village has managed to turn a deficit of community park space in 2004 into a significant acreage surplus at the present time. Despite the acreage surplus, the spatial distribution of Village Parks does not completely cover the Village based on NRPA standards. The following land acquisition goal and objectives are designed to build on the strengths of the Village's land holdings and allow for additional improvements.

**GOAL:** Acquire park and open space land in a manner that continues to meet the active and passive outdoor recreation needs of Richfield's growing population as appropriate opportunities become available.

**OBJECTIVE:** Land may be acquired to provide additional park and open space sites in areas of the Village that are heavily populated, rapidly growing or currently underserved (southwestern and northwestern portions of the Village).

**POLICY 1.1:** As land becomes available in strategically important areas, offers to purchase may be made and supported by the Village through mechanisms such as federal/state grants, debt financing or donations.

**OBJECTIVE:** Land neighboring current parks and open space areas may be acquired when possible in order to maintain and increase the quality and amenities of the current Village park and open space areas.

**POLICY 1.2:** As land becomes available neighboring current highly active parks and open space areas such as Heritage Park, the Richfield Nature Park, and Fireman's Park, or environmentally sensitive areas such as properties by lakes, rivers, and streams, offers to purchase may be made in order to ensure possible future expansions or to maintain the natural Village ecosystem.

# Goals and Objectives - Park Development

## PARK DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the natural features that are associated with most parks, many features such as shelters, athletic fields/courts, gazebos, playground equipment, and trails are often included within park areas.

Over the last two years, the Richfield Soccer Club and Richfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association have been tremendous partners with the Village for the positive development at Heritage Park. These improvements include new field mix on all baseball/softball diamonds, corrugated foul pole and outfield plastic, laser-cutting the infield and many others. The Richfield Historical Society has also been tireless in their park development and improvements to the Richfield Historical Park with their improvements made to the Lillycrapp House, Messer/Mayer Mill, new gazebo and sitting areas, as well as improved pathways for special events like the Thresheree. Although not the primary focus of Richfield parks, enhancements like these help to expand the parks to a wide variety of uses for citizens within and outside of the Village. The following park development goals and objectives are designed to not only maintain the current developments but allow for additional enhancements when appropriate.

**GOAL:** Additional improvements should be made to Richfield parks that enhance and compliment the natural features already present within the parks.

**OBJECTIVE:** Improvements such as new facilities and equipment should provide park use options throughout the entire year.

**POLICY 1.1:** Facilities and amenities such as outdoor ice skating rinks, sledding hills and marked cross country skiing and snowmobiling trails should be developed and implemented to attract citizens to the parks throughout the winter months. These activities have the possibility of providing activities to a potentially new segment of park users, attracting nonresidents and provide diverse recreational activities for residents.

**OBJECTIVE:** Improvements such as new facilities and equipment should provide park use options that target a wide variety of age groups and physical abilities.

**POLICY 1.2:** Equipment and facilities should be incorporated into the parks that specifically target varying age groups and interests. The improvements could include the installation of additional playground equipment, paved walking trails, skate/BMX areas, a disc golf course, an enclosed dog park, and a nature center, among other examples. Such improvements could expand park usage to a much wider and varied group of park users.

**POLICY 1.3:** Equipment and facilities should be incorporated into the park system to accommodate individuals with special requirements or disabilities.

**POLICY 1.4:** Village Staff shall work with the Park Commission, youth sports organizations, and various community stakeholders to create individual park 'Master Plans' to further extrapolate future park development at: Heritage Park, Fireman's Park, Historical/Nature Park, and Bark Lake Park.

# Goals and Objectives - Park Development

## PARK DEVELOPMENT, CON'T...

**OBJECTIVE:** Develop new and alternative means to provide funding for the maintenance and development of current and future park amenities.

**POLICY 1.4:** Revenue generating activities such as facility and equipment rental fees, admission for new features (ice skating rink, disc golf course), or public and private partnerships should be considered in order to supplement current park resources and fund future developments.

**POLICY 1.5:** Cost saving activities related to routine maintenance and development of the parks should be considered. These activities may include expanding flower bed adoption programs, using donated materials for construction of future shelters or equipment, intergovernmental agreements, and the use of volunteer labor for goal specific projects (ie: grounds cleanup, playground or shelter construction).

**POLICY 1.6:** Build on the success of the newly adopted Capital Improvement Plan for large capital expenditures and review on an annual basis with the Park Commission.





# Goals and Objectives - Open Space & Conservation

## OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION

The tradition of open space and conservation areas within the Village has been formally documented in the earliest Richfield park plan adopted in 1980. In 2004, the commitment to preservation was continued in Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan. Since 2004, numerous conservation subdivisions have been developed with designated open space areas surrounding residential lots. One prominent development is the Timber Stone Subdivision which transformed a quarry into a private open space area equipped with walking trails for use by residents of the subdivision. The following open space and conservation goals are designed to maintain current environmental conservation areas and promote the establishment of new areas by public and private organizations.

**GOAL:** Continue to protect, preserve, conserve, and when and where feasible, restore lowland and upland resource areas in order to attain related environmental benefits as well as opportunities for passive educational and recreational pursuits.

**OBJECTIVE:** Preserve, protect, and promote environmental corridors as permanent open spaces.

**POLICY 1.1:** Continue to implement zoning and other land development regulations that protect environmentally sensitive areas by limiting development.

**POLICY 1.2:** Public environmental corridors and open space areas should be continually promoted as significant passive educational and recreation opportunities for Richfield citizens as well as possible users outside the Village.

**OBJECTIVE:** Continue to promote open space and conservancy areas within new residential developments as a compliment to established environmental corridors.

**POLICY 1.3:** New residential developments should be required to create open space and environmental conservation areas among the residential lots. These areas serve select groups of residents but compliment public parks in a similar fashion to private recreation areas such as golf courses and athletic fields.

# Process of Making Plan Amendment

Over the next five (5) years it is anticipated that items within the plan may need to be revisited as newer information becomes available, funding mechanisms change, youth organizations ebb and flow, and desired goals and objectives change amongst elected officials and Village Staff. This document is not to be considered a static document, but rather, a fluid one which will require annual attention and revisiting by the Park Commission. The following steps will become the Park Commission's adopted process and procedure for amending the plan contained herein:

- Publication of a Class I Public Notice will be prepared by Staff to be published at least 30 days in advance of the hearing. The Public Notice must include:
  1. The date, time and place of the hearing.
  2. The name of an individual employed by the Village who can provide additional information regarding the proposed amendment.
  3. Information relating to where and when the proposed amendment may be inspected before the hearing.
  4. Hours of operation for Village Hall.
- A copy of the proposed plan amendment shall be sent first class mail to the Wisconsin DNR for comment during this same 30 day time period. Any comments from the Wisconsin DNR will be discussed at the conclusion of the public hearing.
- The Park Commission by resolution shall recommend adoption of the amendment to the Village Board at their next regularly scheduled public meeting incorporating any comments from the Wisconsin DNR, if any.
- Should the Village Board choose to accept the recommendation from the Park Commission it shall also be done so by resolution. A copy of the resolution and/or minutes from the meeting shall be added to the appendix of the plan for historical context.



# Park and Outdoor Recreation Funding

Villages and municipalities in general may apply for and accept Federal and State aid for acquisition and development of recreational lands. However, in order to be eligible for state aid, a project must be in accordance with comprehensive plans submitted in conjunction with said application, and also be consistent with the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCOPR) as prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

In terms of park and recreational development, the DNR has the statewide authority and sole responsibility for natural resource protection, park development, and water quality management. The DNR has the obligation to prepare a SCORP which is to be used as a statewide guide for municipalities in their own planning efforts. Based on this authority, the State also helps administer two (2) main programs and funding options for municipalities, the Wisconsin Stewardship Program and the Federal Parkland Trail Enhancement Program.

In order to become eligible for a majority of State and Federal funds, the DNR should formally comment on and approve the same once the Park Commission and Village Board have accepted this document by resolution. This would enable the Village the opportunity to apply for and receive State and Federal outdoor recreation grants which currently exist or the ability to apply for any same or similar programs which may become available over time which would assist in the acquisition, development and/or maintenance of parks.

There are several other methods for financing land acquisition and park development. The most commonly utilized method is from property taxes levied onto real property owners by the Village Board. Additionally, the Village may negotiate for the purchase of parkland or it may be obtained by the Village's right of eminent domain. Another method is by gifts from individuals, groups, private enterprise or organizations. In 2012 the Village Board adopted a formal "Gifts and Memorials" policy to help Staff better administrate a formalized procedure to accept these types of gifts of land or other types of 'improvements'.

Another funding mechanism for the Village is the adopted 2014-18 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The purpose of adopting a multi-year CIP is to provide an authoritative decision-making process for the evaluation, selection and multi-year scheduling of public physical improvements based available fiscal resources and the community's priorities. In the CIP the Village Parks Department takes into consideration the vehicles and major equipment pieces used in the maintenance of our park system as well as general park improvements. Please refer to the Appendix for further details on future funding of Park equipment. In 2014 the Village will have a fund balance of \$50,096 for general 'park improvements'. Items for replacement such as the various mowers, vehicles, bunker rakes, chippers, etc. were rated on a points system and applied against our Vehicle Replacement Policy for future consideration of purchase.

The Village's collecting of impact fees also provides another method of financing parks, by requiring parkland dedication or money in lieu of, when a new subdivision is platted or new home construction occurs. This land or money must be used to provide public park and recreation sites and facilities necessary to address the new neighborhood/community service areas. Currently the Village charges \$1,198 per home for park impact fees. In our Park Impact fee account, we have a total of \$39,494 as of October 1, 2013.

# General Recommendations and Conclusion

In addition to the recommended objectives and policies associated with the goals listed above, the following recommendations apply to implementation across each of the categories.

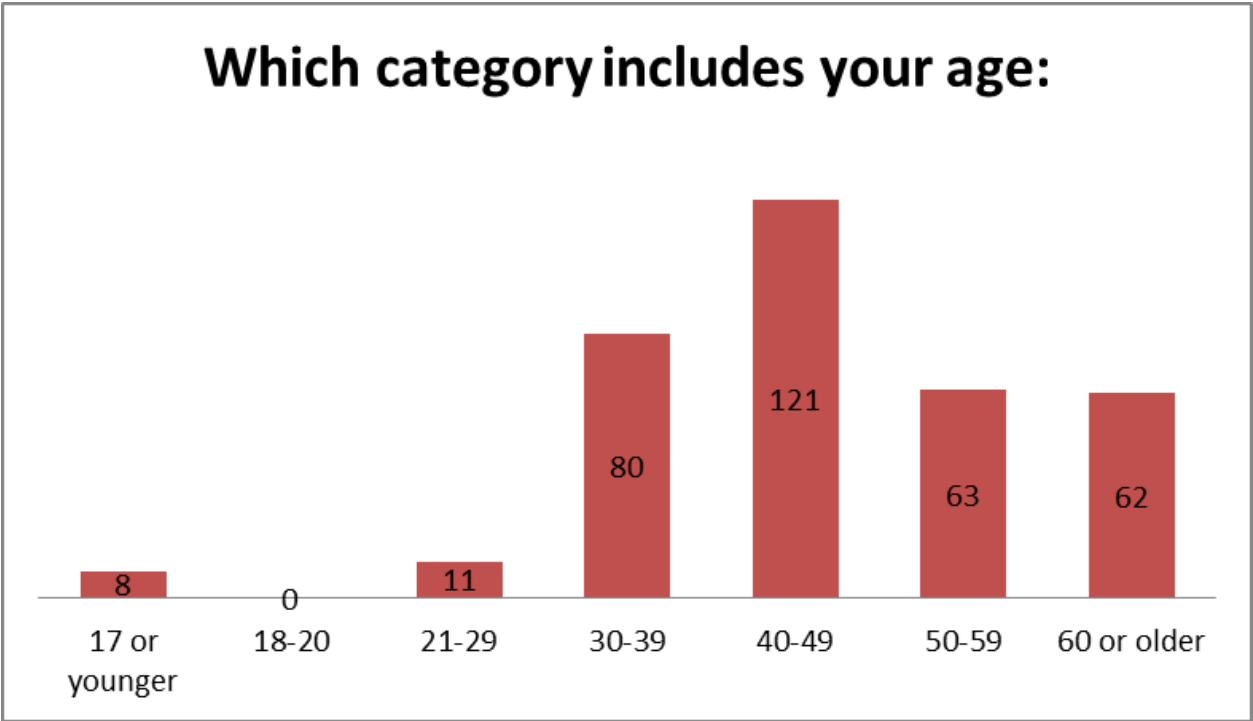
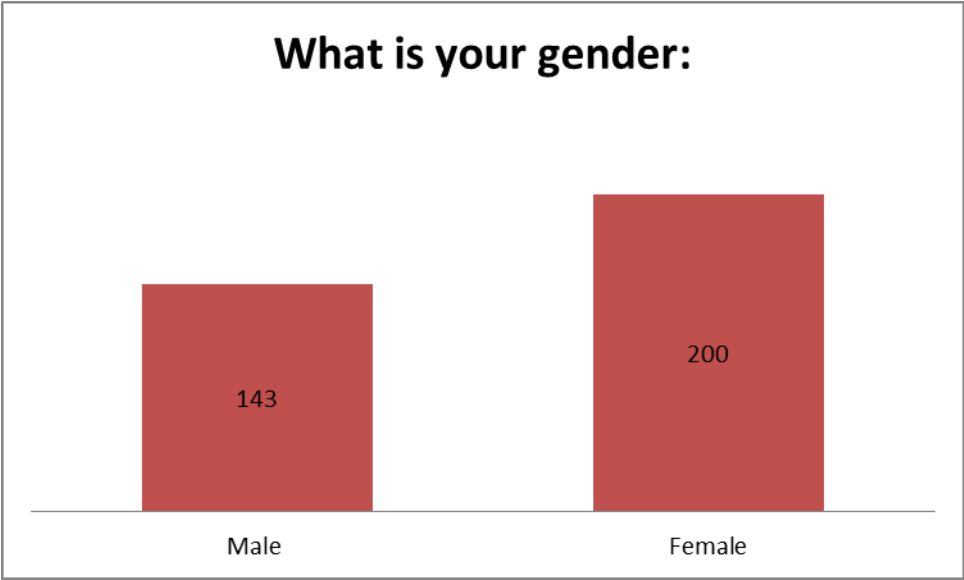
1. New projects should be developed with the assistance and input of appropriate stakeholders. These groups and individuals may include neighboring citizens, municipalities, interested community groups, or county officials.
2. The Village of Richfield, school districts and other public and private entities should explore joint use agreements to minimize facility and program duplication, increase monetary savings to the groups/individuals involved, and provide increased diversity of recreation opportunities.
3. Plans and projects should be coordinated with other levels of government such as Washington County and the State of Wisconsin in order to provide opportunities that apply to the greatest number of people within the Village of Richfield and its surrounding areas.
4. The Village of Richfield Comprehensive Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan should be continually updated in order to maintain constant eligibility for State and Federal grants and funding.
5. Existing athletic groups such as the Richfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association and Richfield Soccer Club should be given sustained support to ensure continued operation of the popular baseball and soccer leagues. If appropriate, expansion to other sports and age groups could be considered.

This document represents the fourth comprehensive plan developed specifically for park, outdoor recreation and open space areas within the Village of Richfield. Since 1980 the citizens of Richfield and their elected officials have made a conscious decision to make parks, recreation and open space areas a priority within the Village. Although the recommendations presented above are based on current population trends and community needs, the plan is also a continuation of previous park and open space plans and the decisions that were made when those respective plans were adopted.

Similar to the plans approved in 1980, 2004, and 2008, this plan serves multiple purposes. First, this document provides a guide for land acquisition, park development and open space maintenance within the Village of Richfield. Second, significant population increases within the Village have required an updated plan that continues to meet the needs of current and future residents. Finally, this document allows the Village to remain eligible for State and Federal grants that assure the continued quality of Richfield parks, recreation, and open space areas are maintained.

In addition to these purposes, this plan also reinforces the important role that park, recreation and open space areas provide for Richfield and its citizens. Building on a long history of conservation and high priorities for park-related projects, the plan presented here is designed to carry Richfield parks through the next five (5) years. With the continuation of this process, park and environmentally sensitive areas within the Village of Richfield will continue to thrive for future generations working in concert with our other adopted strategic plans and comprehensive plans pushing our community **“Forward. Preserving...A Country Way of Life!”**

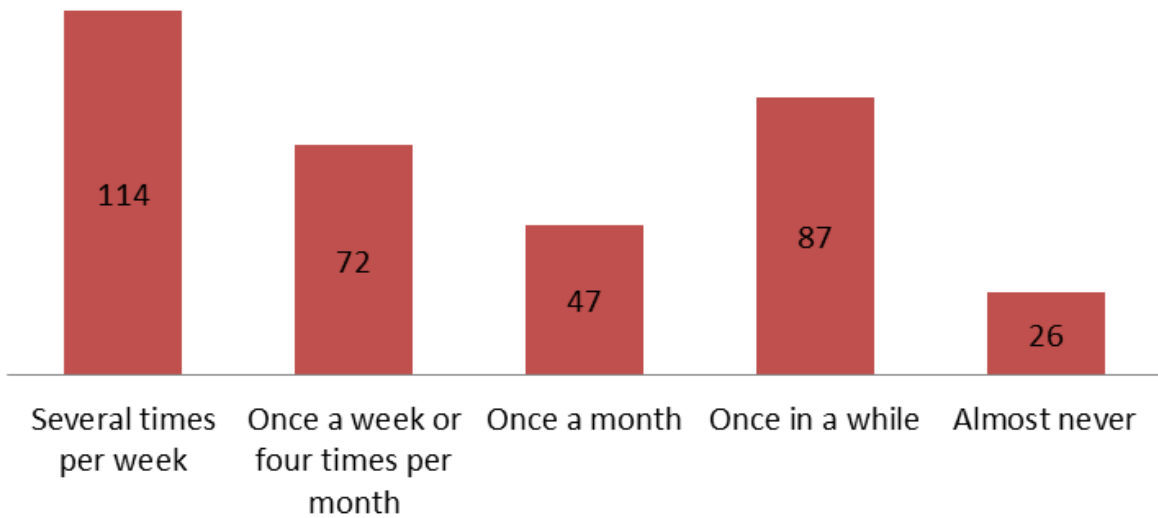
# Appendix - Survey



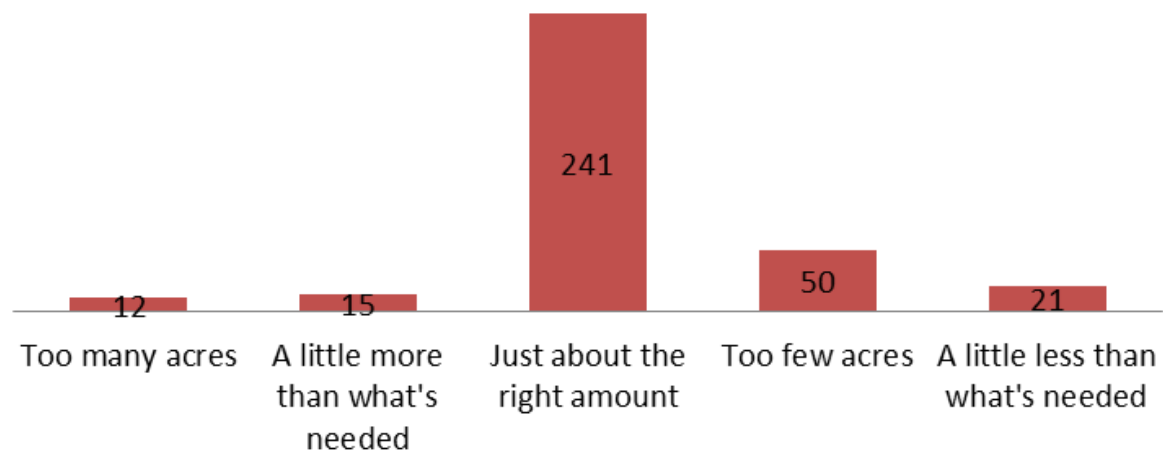


## Appendix - Survey

### How often do you visit our park system:

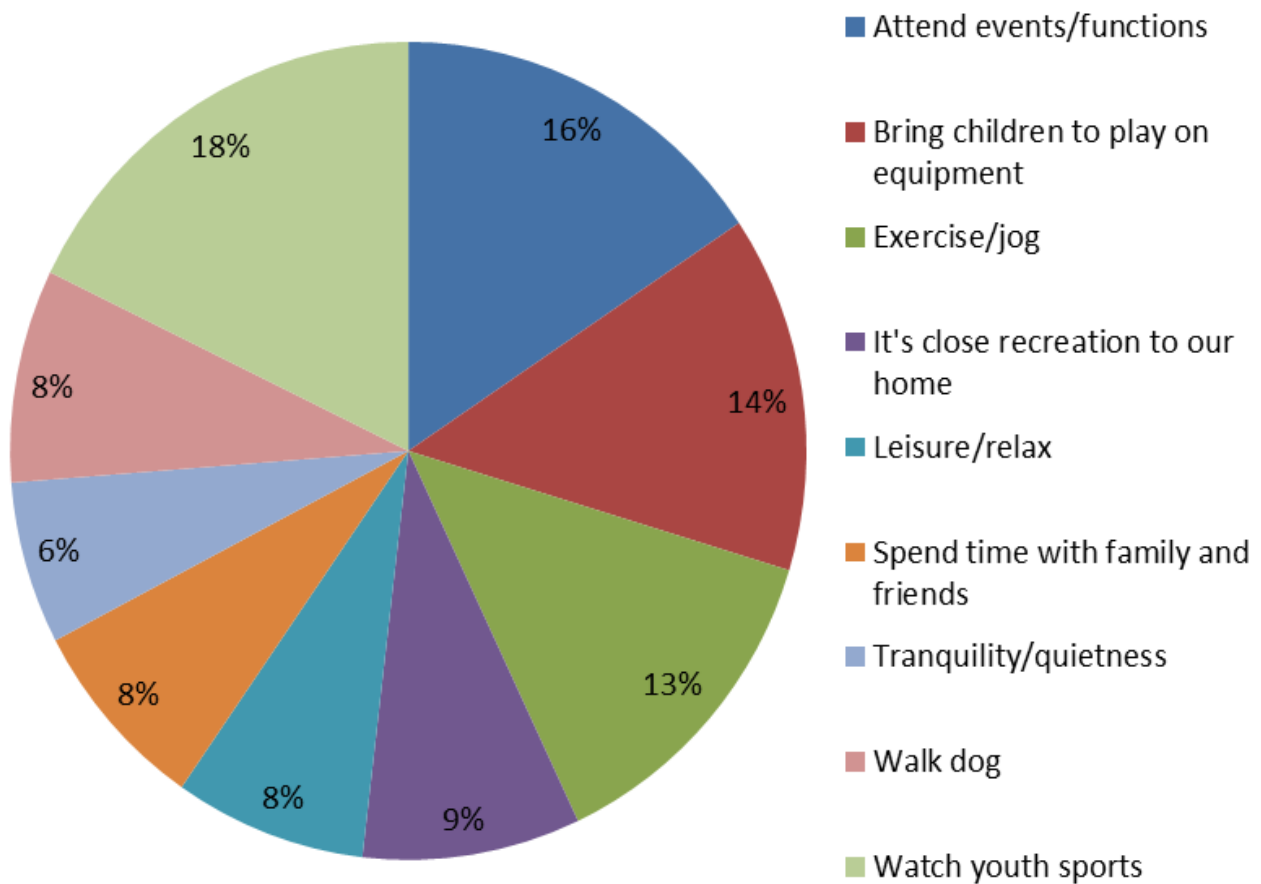


### How would you rate the amount of parkland the Village has:



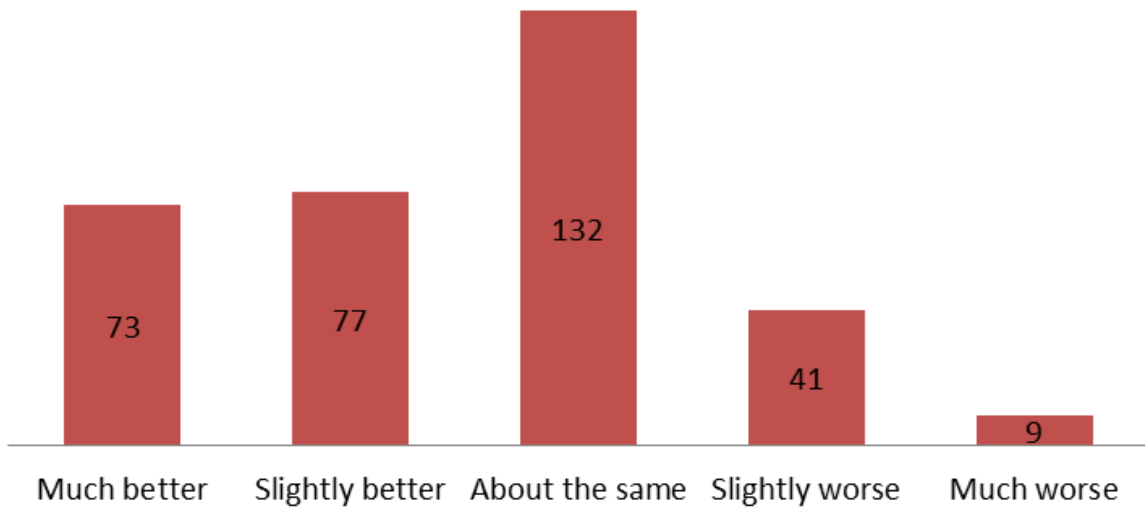
## Appendix - Survey

### What is your primary reason for visiting our park system:

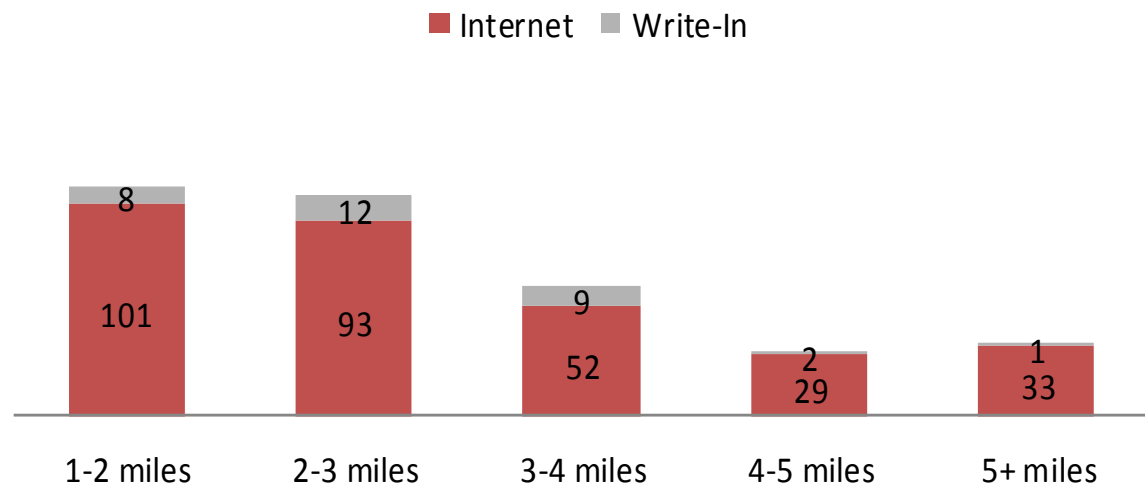


## Appendix - Survey

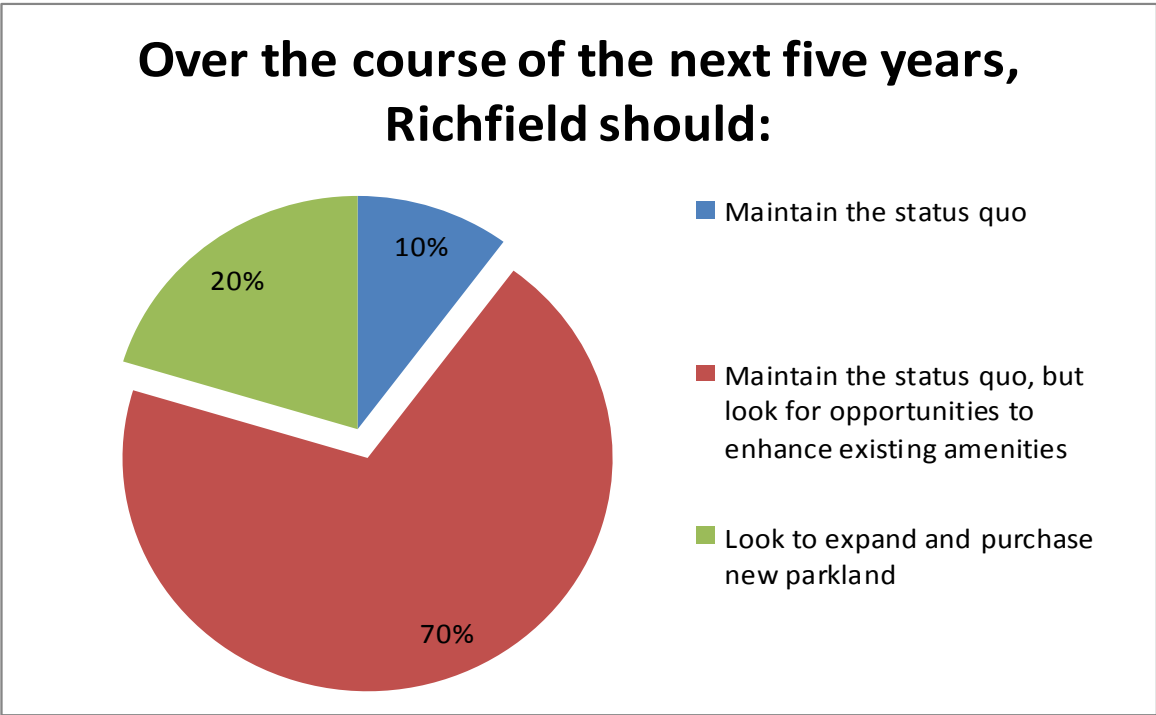
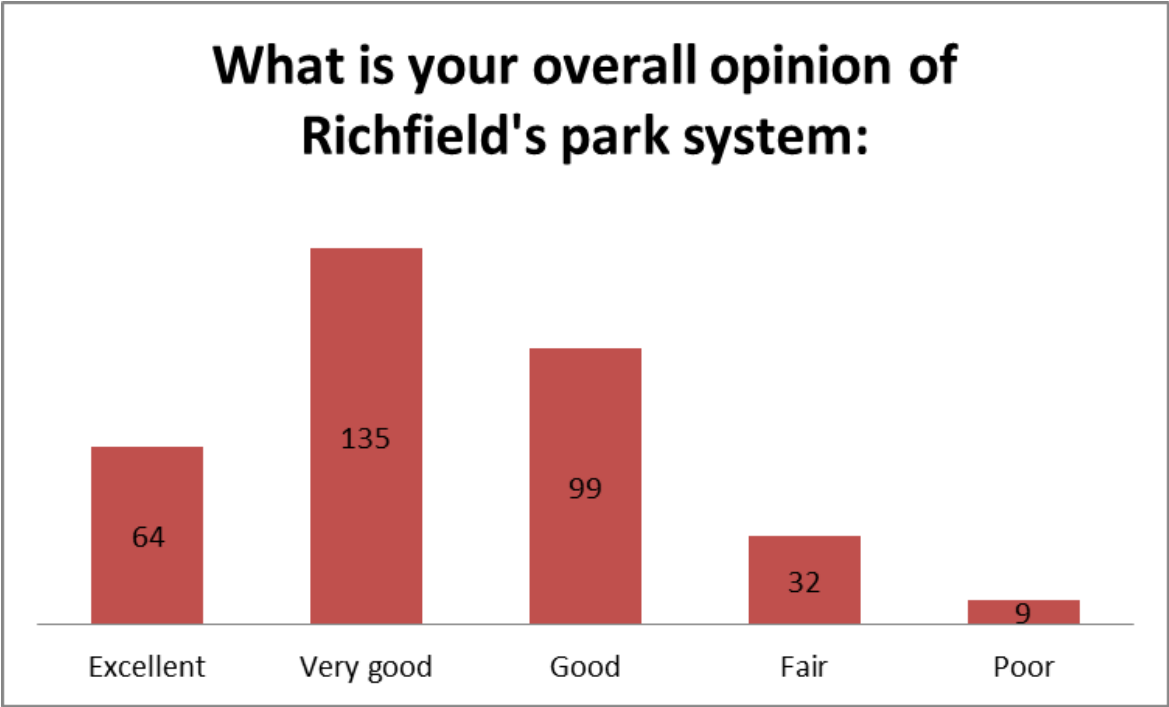
### Compared to surrounding municipalities our park system is:



### When going to one of the Village's parks, the distance traveled is:



**Appendix - Survey**





# **Appendix - DNR Guidelines, Local Park Comp. Plans**

## **What Does a Plan Consist Of?**

**I. Copy of the adopted Resolution or Minutes approving the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**

**II. Table of Contents**

**III. Statement of need and parameters that the plan will establish**

**IV. Goals and Objectives**

**V. Definitions**

**A. Terms**

**B. Classifications**

**VI. Planning Process**

**A. Description of Process**

**B. Amending the Plan**

**VII. Summary of Park Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans**

**VIII. Description of the Planning Region**

**A. Social Characteristics of Municipality/Planning Region**

**1. Size**

**2. Population Trends and Projects**

**3. Ethnic Background**

**4. Employment/Unemployment**

**5. Age**

**6. Economy**

**B. Physical Characteristics of the Region**

**1. Topography**

**2. Water Resources**

**3. Climate**

**4. Soils**

**5. Flora and Fauna**

**IX. Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory**

**A. Natural Resources Available for Outdoor Recreation**

**1. Developed**

**2. Undeveloped**

**B. Outdoor Recreation Facility Inventory**

**1. Number of Sites**

**2. Types of Parks/Recreation Areas**

**3. Facilities Available at Sites**

**4. Current Condition of Park/Recreation Areas and Facilities on Site**

**C. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**

**X. Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment**

# **Appendix - DNR Guidelines, Local Park Comp. Plans**

## **What Does a Plan Consist Of? Con't...**

### **X. Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment**

#### **A. Public Input Assessment**

- 1. Informal**
- 2. Citizen Committees**
- 3. Public Meetings/Workshops**
- 4. Needs Assessment Surveys**

#### **B. Need Standards**

- 1. Recreation Open Space**
- 2. Recreation Facilities**

#### **C. State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Program (SCORP)**

### **XI. Recommendation for Outdoor Recreation Provision**

#### **A. Action Program– Capital Improvement Schedule**

#### **B. Operation and Maintenance**

- 1. Existing Operation and Maintenance Responsibilities**
- 2. Implications of CIS on Operation and Maintenance Capabilities**

#### **C. Funding Programs**

- 1. Local Funds**
- 2. Available Grant Funding Programs**

### **XII. Appendix– Supporting Data, tabular data, graphs, maps, tables**

# Appendix - 2013 Capital Improvement Plan, Parks

## Village of Richfield, Wisconsin

### Capital Improvement Plan

2014 thru 2018

### PROJECTS BY YEAR

Project Name	Department	Project #	Priority	Project Cost
<b>2014</b>				
Roadway Improvement 2014-Willow Creek Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-14-001	2	344,589
Roadway Improvement 2014-Hubertus Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-14-002	2	312,429
Window Replacement Project	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-14-003	3	12,099
Ford F-550 Truck	Vehicle Replacement	VR-14-001	2	43,200
Plow Truck No. 19	Vehicle Replacement	VR-14-002	2	164,836
<b>Total for 2014</b>				<b>877,153</b>
<b>2015</b>				
New Voting Equipment	Election	E-15-001	3	28,000
Roadway Improvement 2015-Scenic Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-15-001	2	498,216
Roadway Improvement 2015-Hogsback Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-15-002	2	219,635
<b>Total for 2015</b>				<b>745,851</b>
<b>2016</b>				
Replacement of Village Computers	Administration	A-16-001	3	13,000
Roadway Improvement 2016-Hillside Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-16-001	2	340,562
Roadway Improvement 2016-Sherman Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-16-002	2	322,080
Salt Storage Facility	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-16-003	2	225,000
Plow Truck No. 3	Vehicle Replacement	VR-16-001	2	169,818
2005 Toro Groundmaster Mower	Vehicle Replacement	VR-16-002	2	63,681
<b>Total for 2016</b>				<b>1,134,141</b>
<b>2017</b>				
Server & Battery Backup	Administration	A-17-001	1	10,000
Roadway Improvement 2017-Hillside Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-17-001	2	343,200
Roadway Improvement 2017-Scenic Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-17-002	2	322,050
John Deere Gator	Vehicle Replacement	VR-17-001	2	11,850
Bunker Rake	Vehicle Replacement	VR-17-002	2	12,065
John Deere 925 Mower	Vehicle Replacement	VR-17-003	2	19,932
Truck No. 4	Vehicle Replacement	VR-17-004	2	25,856
<b>Total for 2017</b>				<b>744,953</b>
<b>2018</b>				
Village Hall Addition/Renovation	Administration	A-18-001	1	1,291,100
Roadway Improvement 2018-Hubertus Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-18-001	2	317,715
Roadway Improvement 2018-Pleasant Hill Road	Public Works and Highway	PW&H-18-002	2	328,546
Plow Truck No. 11	Vehicle Replacement	VR-18-001	2	174,950
1 Ton Dump Body, Truck No. 13	Vehicle Replacement	VR-18-002	2	40,455
<b>Total for 2018</b>				<b>2,152,766</b>

Produced Using the Plan-It Capital Planning Software

# **Appendix - Strategic Plan (Adopted 2012)**

## **The Village of Richfield's Vision...**

"Forward. Preserving...A Country Way of Life!"

## **The Village of Richfield's Mission...**

### **Our Philosophy**

We effectively plan and manage Village grown to successfully blend our rural heritage with our modern way of life. We protect our diverse natural resources and environment. We treasure our small-town feel while investing in thoughtful business development that enhances the vitality of our community. We actively preserve our open spaces, our dark evening skies, and beautiful parklands. We responsibly manage our precious water resources and thoughtfully consider development to protect them.

### **Our Government**

We value an accessible and efficient government that provides outstanding services to the community financed by the right balance of residential, commercial, and agricultural property. We value civic engagement and community involvement in Village planning and decision making. We proactively anticipate the needs of the community and work hard to ensure that we have safe and well-maintained roads; clean and usable parks; and inviting community buildings. We have a thoughtful and responsible approach to taxation that minimizes the financial burden of living here while supporting the essential government services and programs that sustain the health, safety, and beauty of the Village.

### **Our Community**

We welcome new residents and honor our long-time residents' way of life and traditions. We have active civic organizations that build community and share local traditions and events that celebrate our history and our promising future. Our parks and trails provide extensive recreational opportunities for those who live here—and those who are just visiting.

A Country Way of Life...worth preserving!



# Appendix - Nov. 13th Park Commission Minutes

(Left Intentionally Blank Until Approved)